DRAKUUN

RISE OF THE DRAGON PRINCESS

ドラクウーン

In the year 4077, life is anything but tranquil. Ledomiam, the last of the free nations, has reluctantly agreed to make peace with the tyrannical Romunilian Empire. Karula Olzen, feisty second daughter of the Ledomiam royal family, has been sent to the Romunilian capital to sign a so-called Treaty of Amity, a document which would reduce her country to little more than a vassal state. But, once on the other side of enemy lines, peace is the last thing on Karula's mind. Launching a vicious attack on Emperor Gustav, she kickstarts a war that puts her family in danger and makes her a fugitive of justice. With the aid of a traveling circus and an oversexed border guard named Dard, Karula manages to stay

one step ahead of her pursuers on the trail toward freedom. **Drakuun** is another saucy science-fiction adventure from Johji Manabe, creator of the popular **Outlanders** and **Caravan Kidd** series.

DRAKUUN

RISE OF THE DRAGON PRINCESS

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DRAKUUN: VOLUME 1 — RISE OF THE DRAGON PRINCESS
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ドラクウェン

VOLUME 1

BELGORAND, CAPITAL CITY
ROMUNILIAN EMPIRE
WARTIME: 2077. WAR RAGES BETWEEN THE ROMUNILIAN EMPIRE AND THE REBEL STATES FOR CONTROL OF THE GRIFFELL CONTINENT. BUT LEDOMIAM, CORNERSTONE OF THE ALLIANCE, HAS BEEN WORN DOWN BY THE OVERWHELMING RESOURCES OF THE EMPIRE. AT LAST, UNWILLINGLY, THE SMALL KINGDOM ENTERS INTO A PEACE TREATY WITH IMPERIAL FORCES.

TODAY, THE LEDOMIAMIAN EMISSARY ARRIVES IN BELGORAND TO INK THE TREATY... KARULA, DRAGON PRINCESS OF LEDOMIAM!
SPREAD OUT THE FORMATION! WE CAN'T AFFORD A COLLISION!
STILL NO SIGNAL FROM THE BOSVANIANS, SIR!
PREPARE FOR RADIO SILENCE!

EMPEROR GUSTAV! PRINCESS OF LEDOMIAM KARULA OLZEN REQUESTS AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU!

SO...THIS IS THE INFAMOUS WILD DAUGHTER OF KING OLZEN, EH? I HAVE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT YOU, WARRIOR PRINCESS...*TOO MANY* RUMORS!

BUT ENOUGH-- YOU HAVE MY THANKS FOR JOURNEYING SO FAR.

YOU HONOR ME, SIRE! I AM GLAD TO FIND YOUR LORDSHIP WELL!

YOUR HIGHNESS! WE HAVE EXAMINED THE ACCOUNTING OF TRIBUTE...IT IS MOST SATISFACTORY!
AND HOW IS YOUR FATHER, KING OLZEN? IN GOOD HEALTH?
MY LORD... THE KING HAS RECENTLY RETIRED FROM GOVERNANCE.
THE CROWN PRINCESS, MY SISTER ROSALIA, HAS ASCENDED THE THRONE.
THEN WHY HAS NOT THIS OLDER SISTER OF YOURS COME HERSELF? WE ARE SIGNING A TREATY BETWEEN TWO STATES!
FORGIVE MY IMPERTINENCE, MY LORD. BUT IN MATTERS OF WAR AND DIPLOMACY, YOUR SERVANT KARULA HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY.
HRMM...

WE CRAVE YOUR UNDER-STANDING...

....

YET THIS OUTFIT YOU WEAR IS HARDLY FITTING FOR A MISSION OF PEACE.

MMM... VERY WELL.

A SWORD... THAT HEAVY ARMOR... ARE YOU STILL THINKING OF WAR?

FORGIVE ME, SIRE. A WARRIOR MUST BE PREPARED FOR BATTLE EVEN IN TIMES OF PEACE.

AND SO LONG AS I AM A WARRIOR, MY GARB SHALL NOT CHANGE!

HRMM. FROM ALL I HAVE HEARD, PERHAPS YOU ARE BETTER SUITED FOR ARMOR THAN COURTLY DRESS.

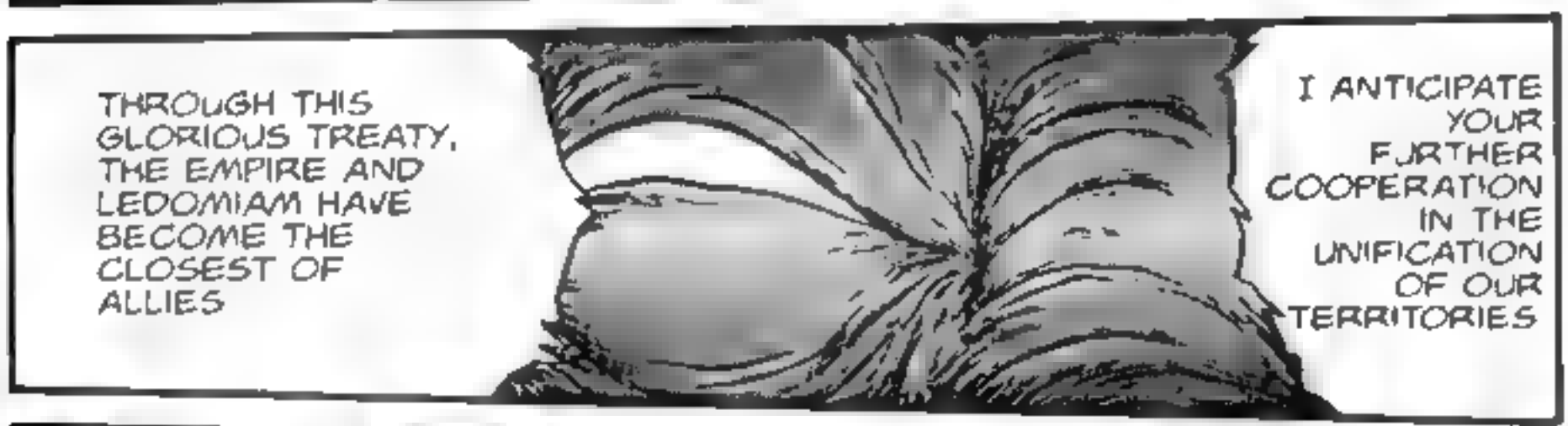
DARS !!

MY LORD !

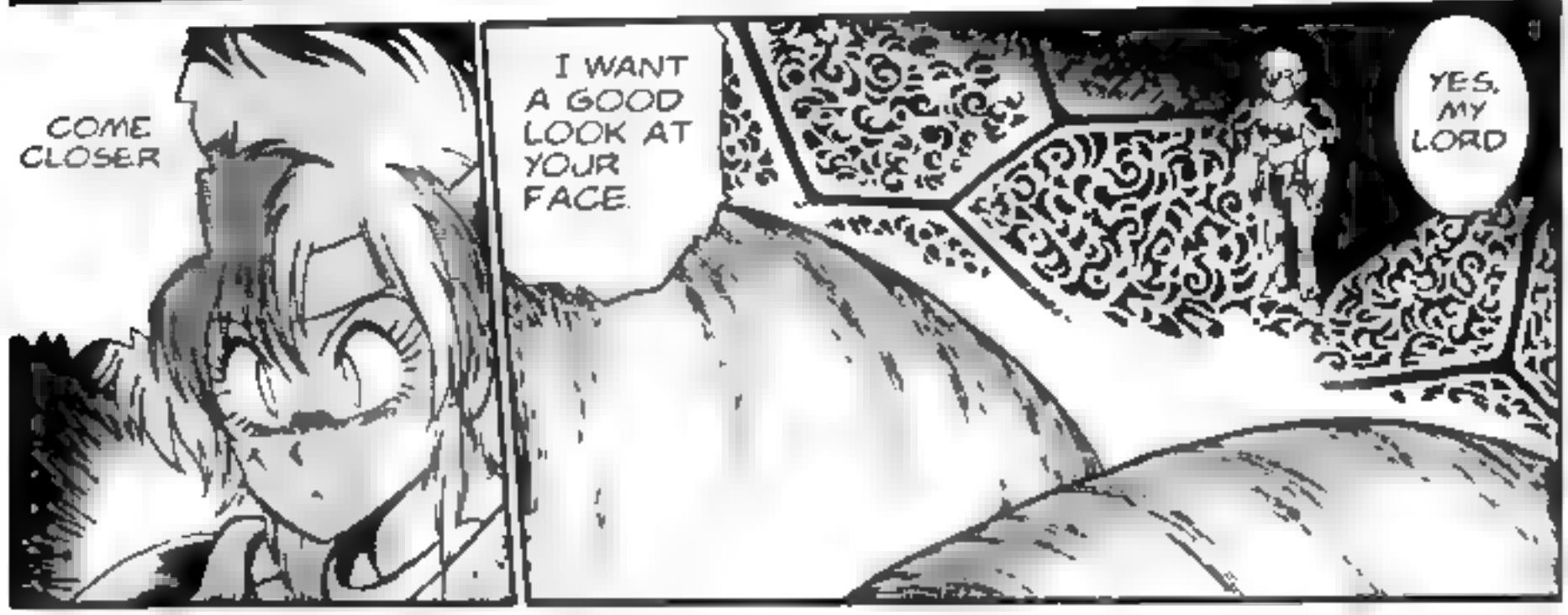
AND NOW, PRINCESS KARULA... YOUR HONORED SIGNATURE UPON THIS TREATY, IF YOU PLEASE
A TREATY OF AMITY BETWEEN LEDOMIAM AND THE ROMUNILIAN EMPIRE MAY SOUND GOOD...
...BUT WHAT IT REALLY MEANS IS THAT WE'LL BE UNDER THEIR THUMB, A VIRTUAL COLONY

TAK

CLAP CLAP CLAP
CONGRAT-ULAT ONS, PRINCESS!
PEACE HAS COME AT LAST BETWEEN LEDOMIAM AND OUR EMPIRE!


THROUGH THIS GLORIOUS TREATY, THE EMPIRE AND LEDOMIAM HAVE BECOME THE CLOSEST OF ALLIES
I ANTICIPATE YOUR FURTHER COOPERATION IN THE UNIFICATION OF OUR TERRITORIES

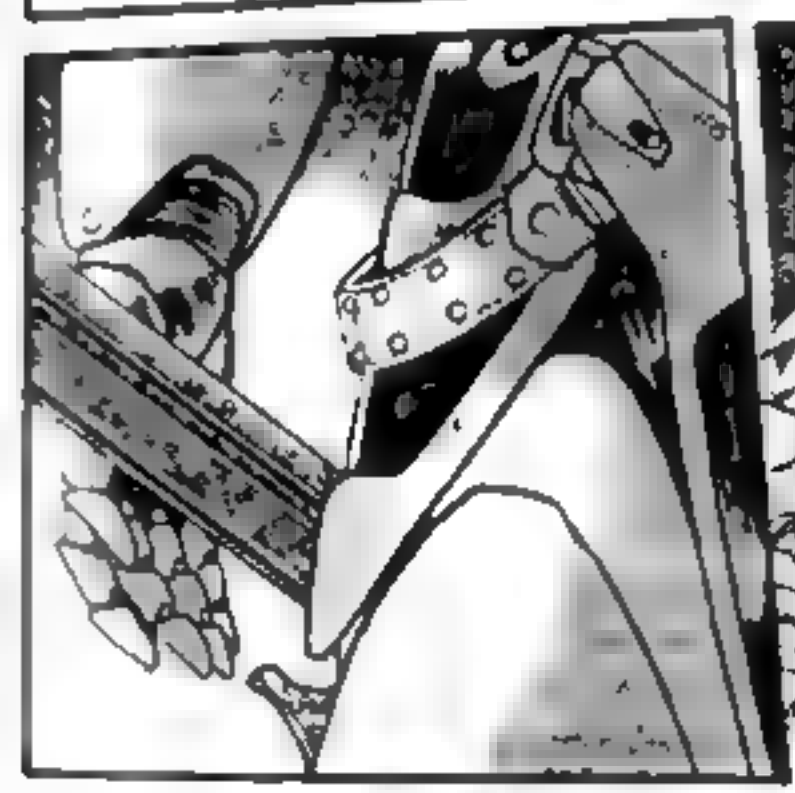
MY LORD!
IT IS MY HONOR AND JOY TO SERVE


COME CLOSER
I WANT A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR FACE.
YES, MY LORD

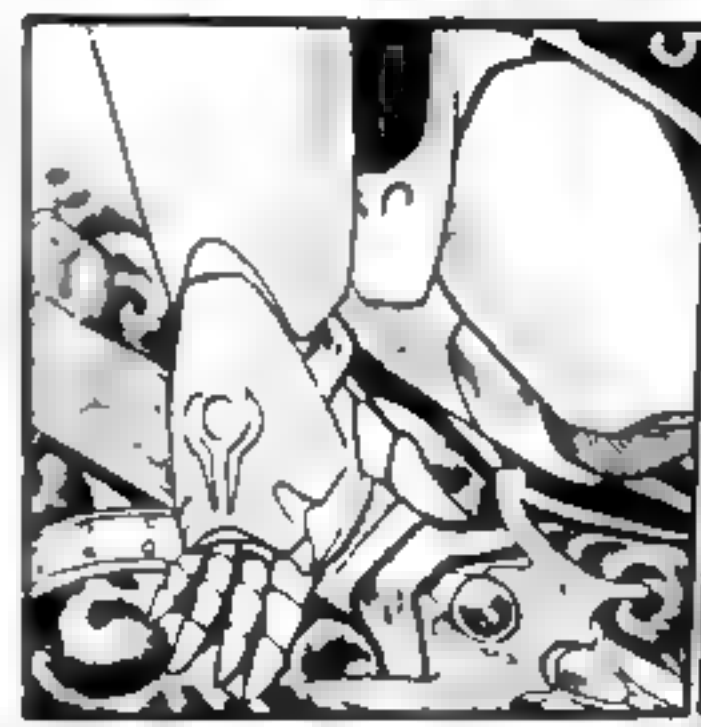
!!

KOFF

TAK

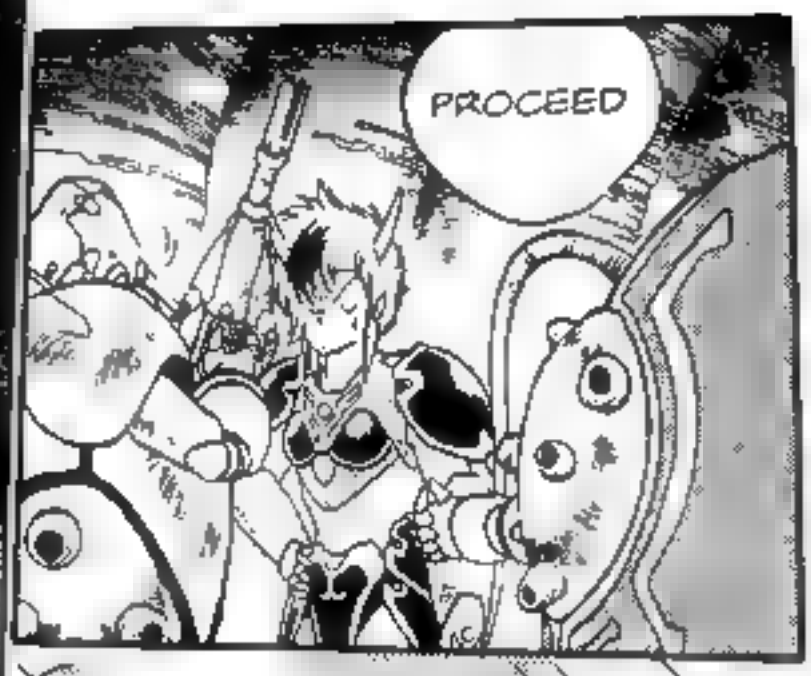


HMPH! VERY WELL.
KCHAK



KRELLLLLE

URRE


PROCEED

OH HO !

. . .
I HAD HEARD NO MORE THAN THAT YOU WERE AN UNRULY BRAT...
...BUT ON A CLOSER LOOK, I SEE THAT YOU'RE QUITE THE LITTLE BEAUTY
NEXT TIME YOU MUST COME WITH YOUR SISTER.
TWO BEAUTIFUL SISTERS WOULD BE A COMFORT TO THESE OLD EYES
HO HO HO THEY WOULD INDEED, YOUR HIGHNESS!
AS YOU WISH, SIRE
THAT IS...IF YOU'LL EVER MEET ANYONE AGAIN...
?
!!
WHKROOM

WHRAM WHRAM
BKOM
BKOM
FUCK

DORA ONE TO DORA TWO! VELDA COMPANY CIRCLE TO THE RIGHT! TAKE OUT THOSE GUN TURRETS!
COMPANY COMMANDER BRAJ, GIVE THEM FIRE SUPPORT WATCH OUT FOR ENEMY FLAK!
BKAM BKAM
PREPARE TO JUMP! DON'T PISS YOUR PANTS, GIRLS!
BUDDA BUDDA
KARULA.. BE CAREFUL!

WHAAAM

ZOOM

BKROOM!
BRRTTTT

WHAT IS THIS?! I DEMAND AN EXPLANATION!
WHOOM
YOUR HIGHNESS! IT'S AN ENEMY ATTACK! AIRBORNE UNITS HAVE PENETRATED THE PALACE!

THE FIRST AND SECOND GUN BATTERIES HAVE ALREADY FALLEN!
WHAT ?!
WHICH ENEMY ?!
NYA HA HA HA HA!

KARULA ?!
SO IT'S YOU LEDOMIAM RFF RAFF !
BWAHAHA!
SO YOU FINALLY NOT CFD, EH, SQUID FEATURES ?!
YOU EXPECT US TO JOIN HANDS WITH LYING BASTARDS LIKE YOU ?!
I'M NOT HERE TO SIGN A TREATY I'M HERE TO TAKE YOUR LIFE!
UOH ?!

SHRIK
YOUR HIGHNESS !!

GRRRGH!
GRCCH

NGGRARR!
!!
STOP! DON'T SHOOT-- YOU'LL HIT THE EMPEROR!
BUT SIR--!
WHRAM
AIEE!

FWAP
NG!
BUDDA
BUDDA

HCHOK
CLAMPOS
STOP RUNNING AWAY!
FLUHIPP
WHAT
TRACKS...!

KRAK!
KRAK!
BLOOM!
AFTER HER! DON'T LET HER ESCAPE!
GNARRGH!
BLRBB BLRBB

SPLORSH
YOUR HIGHNESS!?
I WILL NOT FORGET THIS OUTRAGE, KARULA OLZEN... NEVER!
AND IT SHALL COST YOU AND YOUR MISERABLE COUNTRY DEARLY!!
KSSSHH
SIRE!
SIRE!!

?
YO! ANYONE THERE?! IT'S ME!
PRINCESS KARULA ?!
ARL !
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

I'M SO RELIEVED YOU'RE SAFE--

YOU *DOPE!* YOU THINK I'D DIE *THAT* EASY?!

AND THE BIG BOSS...?

SLICE 'N' DICE!

I CHOPPED HIM INTO *QUIVERING SHREDS!*

HUH?

YEP! ONLY THING HE'S GOOD FOR NOW IS *CALAMARI!*

DAMN, BUT I WANTED YOU TO SEE ME, ARL! IT FELT *GREAT!*

AND THE *COUP DE GRACE*?

EH? "COO DUH GRAW"... WHAZZAT?

THE EMPEROR GUSTAV... HIS REJUVENATING POWERS ARE *BOUNDLESS*, PRINCESS!

YOU CAN'T JUST *WOUND* HIM, EVEN A LOT...

...FOR AS LONG AS YOU LEAVE ANY OF HIS FLESH INTACT, HE'LL LIVE *FOREVER!*

ANY OF HIS FLESH...? BUT THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!*

DAMN! I THOUGHT OLD "SQUID FEATURES" WAS TOO EASY TO--
HIT THE DECK!
IT'S THE IMPERIALS! THEY'RE FINALLY COUNTER-ATTACKING!
WHAM
WHAMMM

BROOOM
AA AG GH!
DAMN IT/ THEY STILL HAVE *THAT* MUCH FIRE-POWER?!
WHERE'S THE SECOND WAVE? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BOSVANIAN ARMY?
WE DON'T KNOW--WE CAN'T RAISE THEM ON THE COMLINK/
WHY THE HELL NOT ?!
PRINCESS! WE CAN'T HOLD OUT ANY LONGER!

THEIR REMAINING BATTERIES HAVE OUR ENTIRE POSITION ENFILADED!
WE'VE ALREADY LOST HALF OUR FLITTERS!

HAVE EVERY-ONE FALL BACK!
WE'RE PULLING OUT!
PRINCESS KARULA!

WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE, ARL.
WITHOUT REINFORCE-MENTS THEY'VE GOT US BY THE BALLS!

AS SOON AS YOU'RE LOADED, MAKE FOR THE BORDER. HAVE EVERY SHIP TAKE A DIFFERENT ROUTE--WE NEED TO GET AS MANY OF US BACK HOME AS POSSIBLE!
B-BUT... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WHERE DO YOU THINK?!
I'VE GOT TO GIVE THE EMPEROR HIS "COO DUH WHATSIT!"

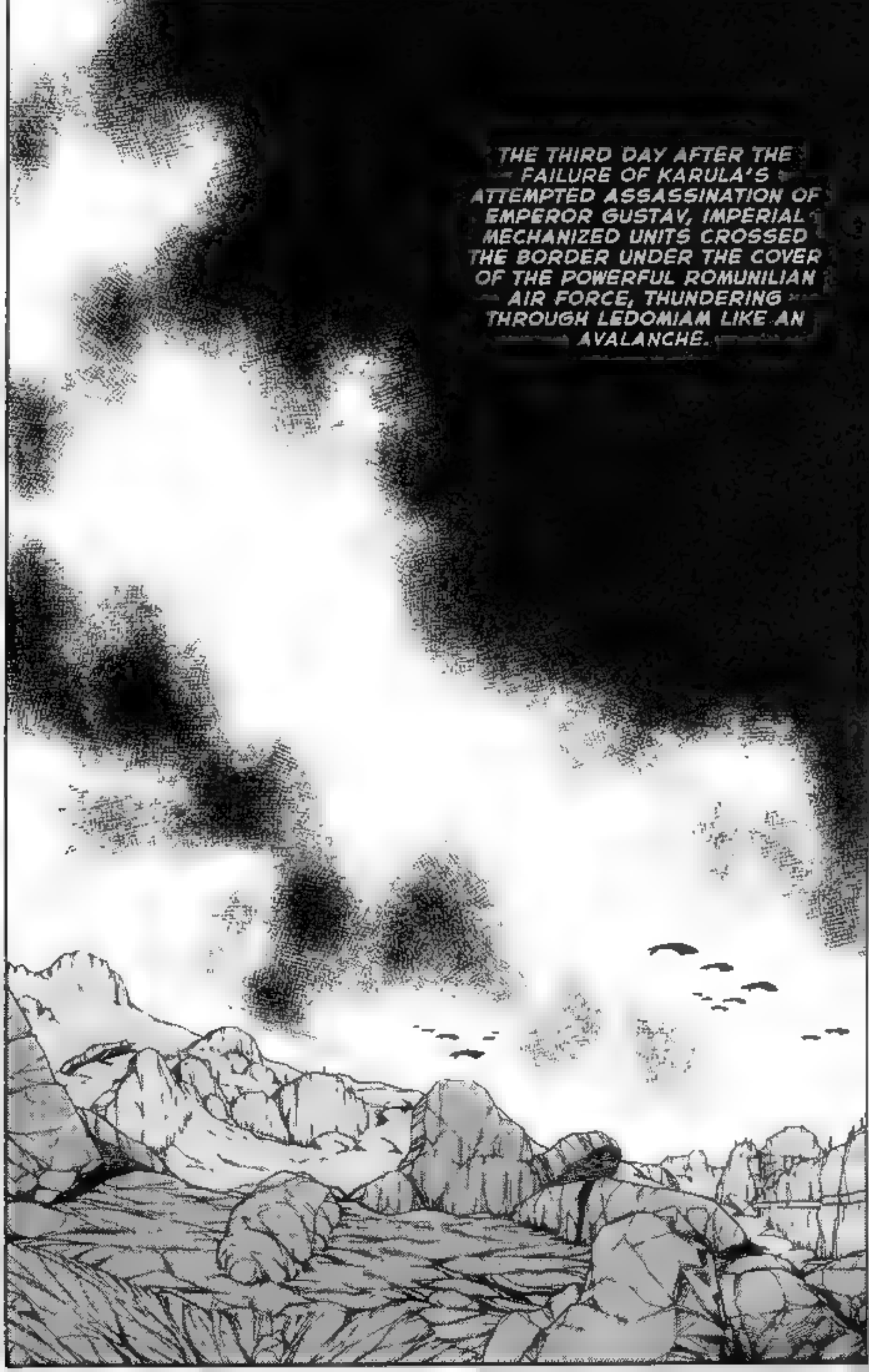
DON'T BE CRAZY!
IT'S TOO LATE NOW!
DAMN IT, ARL! UNHAND ME!

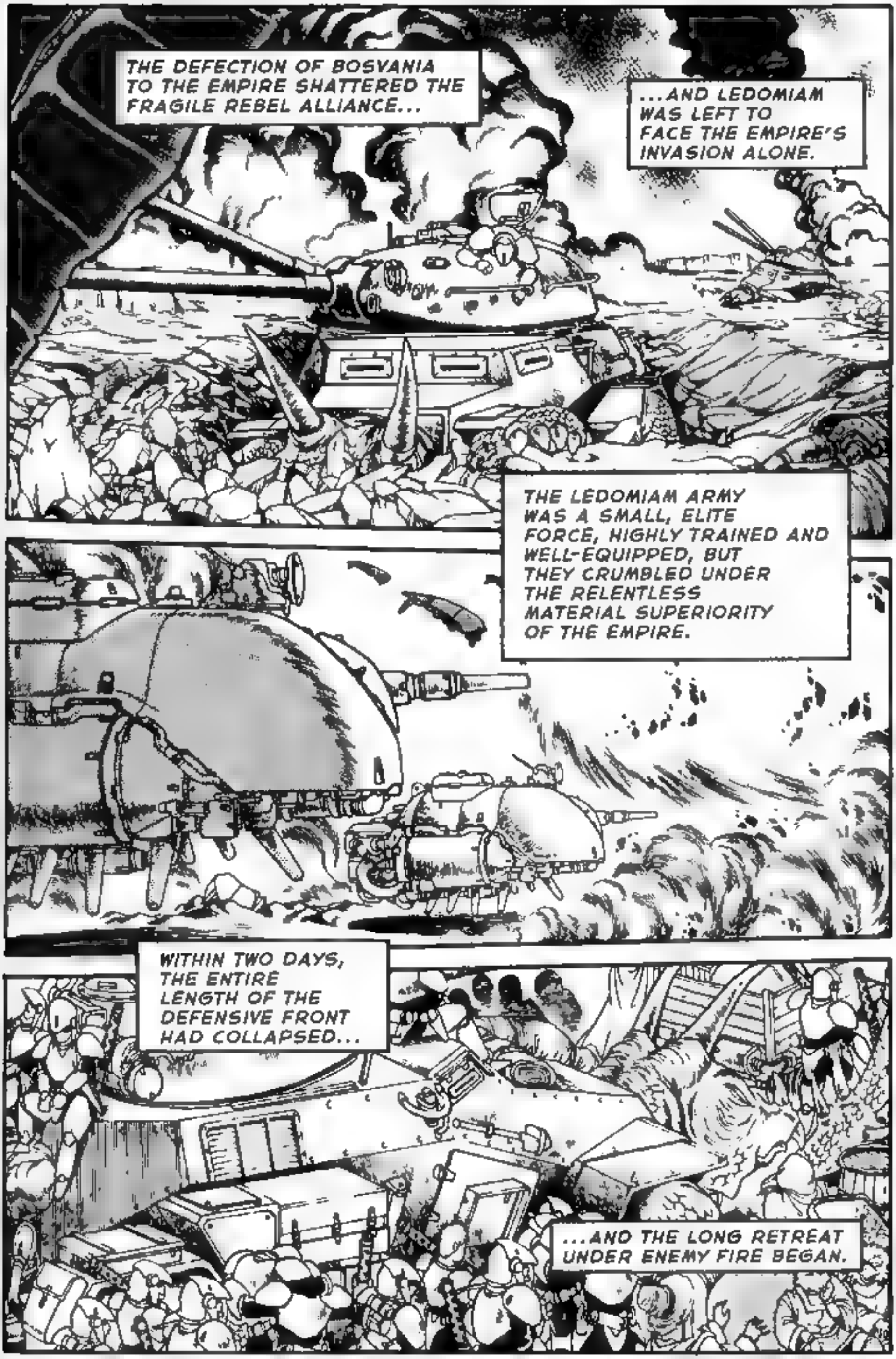
HEY! ALL OF YOU HELP ME! WE'VE GOT TO GET THE PRINCESS TO SAFETY!

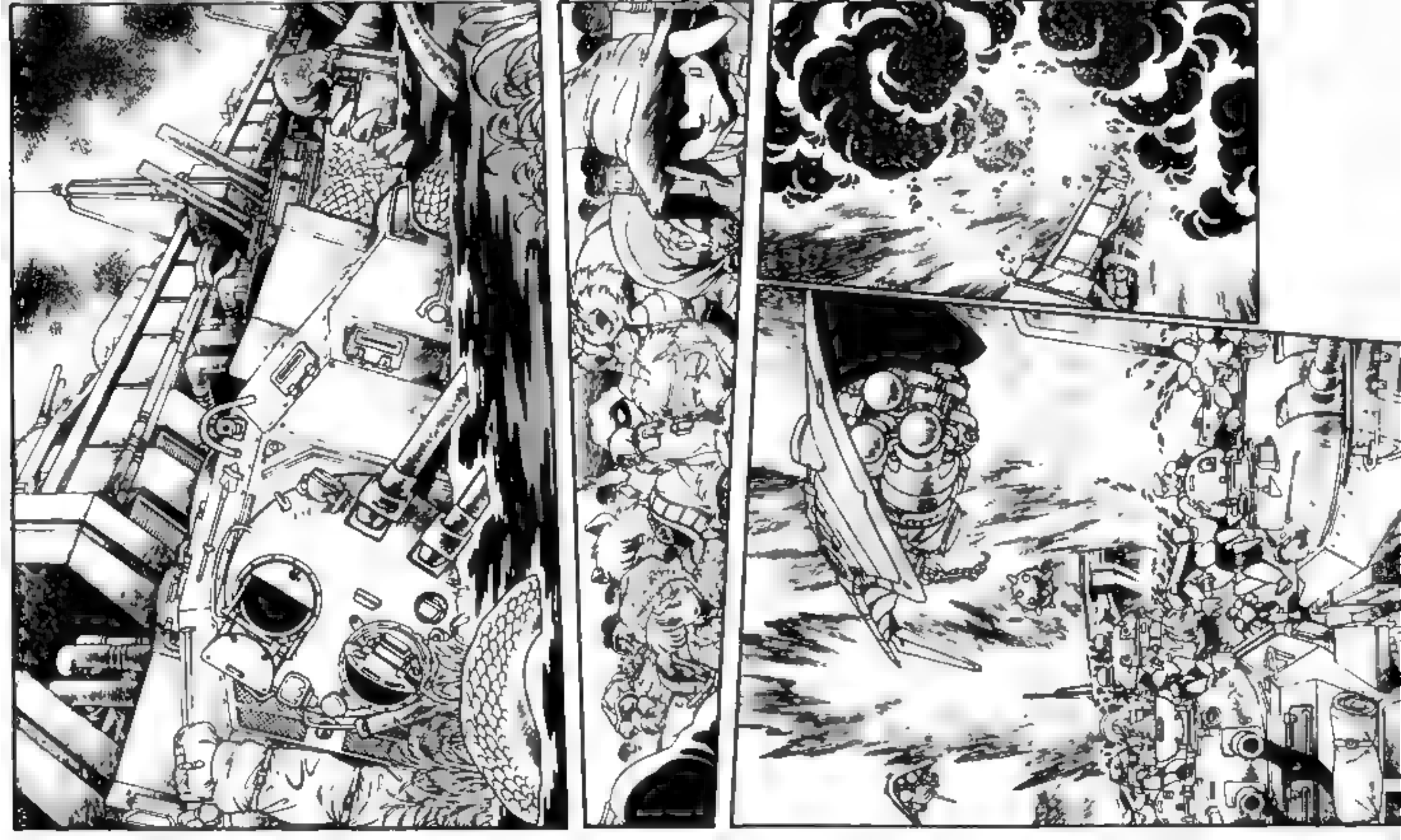
DAMN YOUR EYES! LET ME GO!
THIS IS TREASON!
EEK! DON'T TOUCH ME THERE!
YOU ROTTEN BASTARDS! I'VE GOT TO FINISH OFF GUSTAV!
LET ME GO!
MOVE 'EM OUT!

LIFTING OFF NOW, SIR!
HNNK!
ARL ?!
ARL!!
WE'RE CLEAR!
ARLL!!

FROM


THE THIRD DAY AFTER THE FAILURE OF KARULA'S ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF EMPEROR GUSTAV, IMPERIAL MECHANIZED UNITS CROSSED THE BORDER UNDER THE COVER OF THE POWERFUL ROMUNILIAN AIR FORCE, THUNDERING THROUGH LEDOMIAM LIKE AN AVALANCHE.


THE DEFECTION OF BOSVANIA TO THE EMPIRE SHATTERED THE FRAGILE REBEL ALLIANCE...
...AND LEDOMIAM WAS LEFT TO FACE THE EMPIRE'S INVASION ALONE.
THE LEDOMIAM ARMY WAS A SMALL, ELITE FORCE, HIGHLY TRAINED AND WELL-EQUIPPED, BUT THEY CRUMBLED UNDER THE RELENTLESS MATERIAL SUPERIORITY OF THE EMPIRE.
WITHIN TWO DAYS, THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE DEFENSIVE FRONT HAD COLLAPSED...
...AND THE LONG RETREAT UNDER ENEMY FIRE BEGAN.



ON THE FIFTH DAY OF THE WAR, THE MAIN BATTLE LINE OF IMPERIAL BATTLESHIPS HAD COME WITHIN RANGE OF THE LEDOMIAN CAPITAL OF KARE-JAS.

WITHIN HOURS, KARE-JAS WAS COMPLETELY SURROUNDED

WHKROOM

I HAVE *NO* INTENTION OF FLEEING!

YOUR MAJESTY, THE CAPITAL HAS BECOME TOO DANGEROUS.

IN THAT CASE, EVACUATE THE CITIZENS! THEY MUST COME FIRST!

I WILL *NOT* ABANDON MY SUBJECTS!

THAT IS EASY TO SAY, YOUR MAJESTY, BUT...

SO MANY OF THE COURT HAVE ALREADY FLED...

SO THIS IS WHAT THE END LOOKS LIKE...

DAMN!

KANG

AND YET... AND YET I CAN DO *NOTHING!*

!

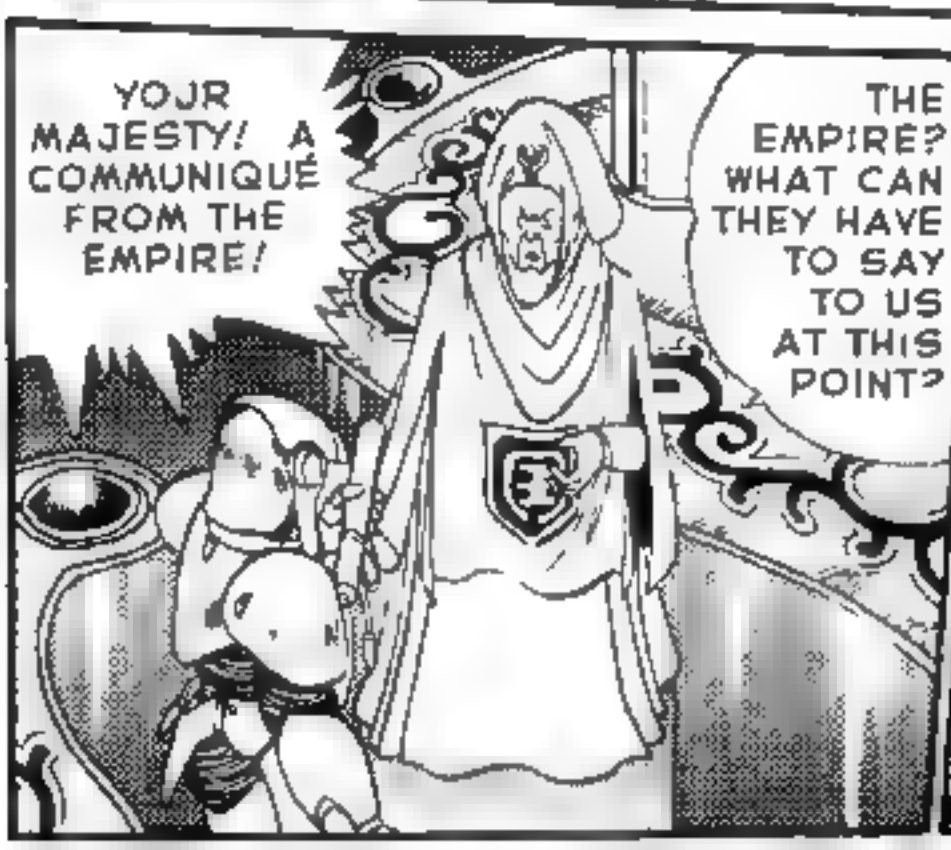
THE IMPERIALS WILL BE AT THE GATES BY TOMORROW!
WHY DOESN'T THE ROYAL FAMILY PROTECT US?!
ACCEPT YOUR RESPONS-IBILITY!
LET THE QUEEN SHOW HER-SELF!
I'LL GO, ROSALIA.
BUT, KARJLA
IT'S THE PRINCESS!
PRINCESS KARJLA'S ON THE BALCONY!
PEOPLE OF LEDOMIAM!
HEAR ME OUT--
WE DON'T WANT YOUR DAMNED EXCUSES!

THAK
KARULA!
KILL HER!
KILL THE TROUBLE-MAKING VIXEN!
PRINCESS KARULA!
IT...IT'S WHAT I DESERVE...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, YOUR HIGHNESS?
KILL!
FORGET IT.
ROSALIA, I'M SO SORRY... THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

YOU PERFORMED YOUR MISSION SPLENDIDLY, AS THE WARRIOR YOU ARE! THAT'S ALL I COULD ASK.

BUT...BUT MY STRATEGY FAILED! AND NOW IT'S COME TO THIS...

IT'S NOT ALL OVER YET, KARULA.
STOP BLAMING YOURSELF FOR ALL THE ILLS OF THE WORLD.


YOUR MAJESTY! A COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE EMPIRE!
THE EMPIRE? WHAT CAN THEY HAVE TO SAY TO US AT THIS POINT?

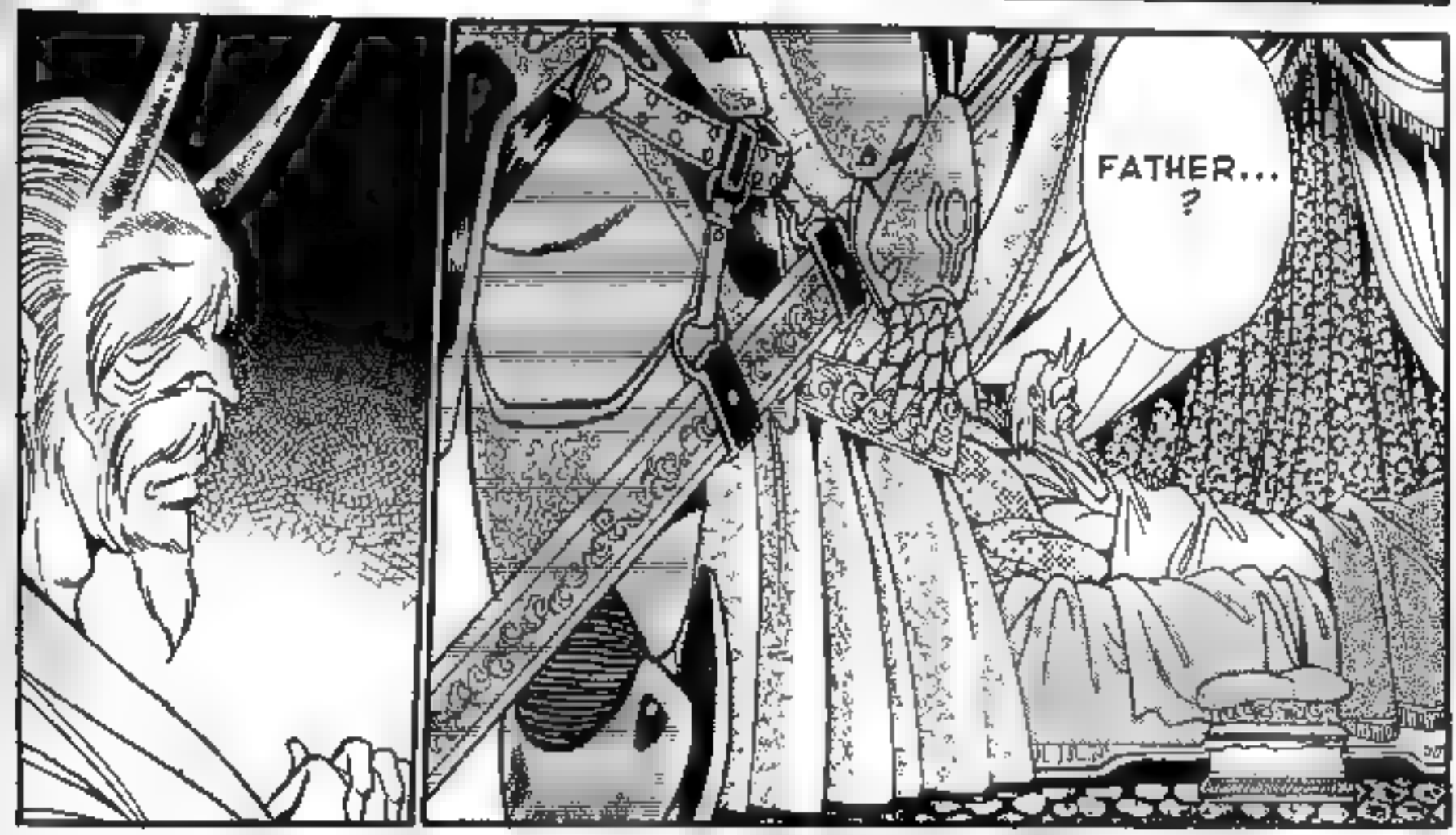
WHY, THIS IS... A PEACE PROPOSAL!
?!

WHY ON EARTH...?!

I...I CANNOT BELIEVE THIS!

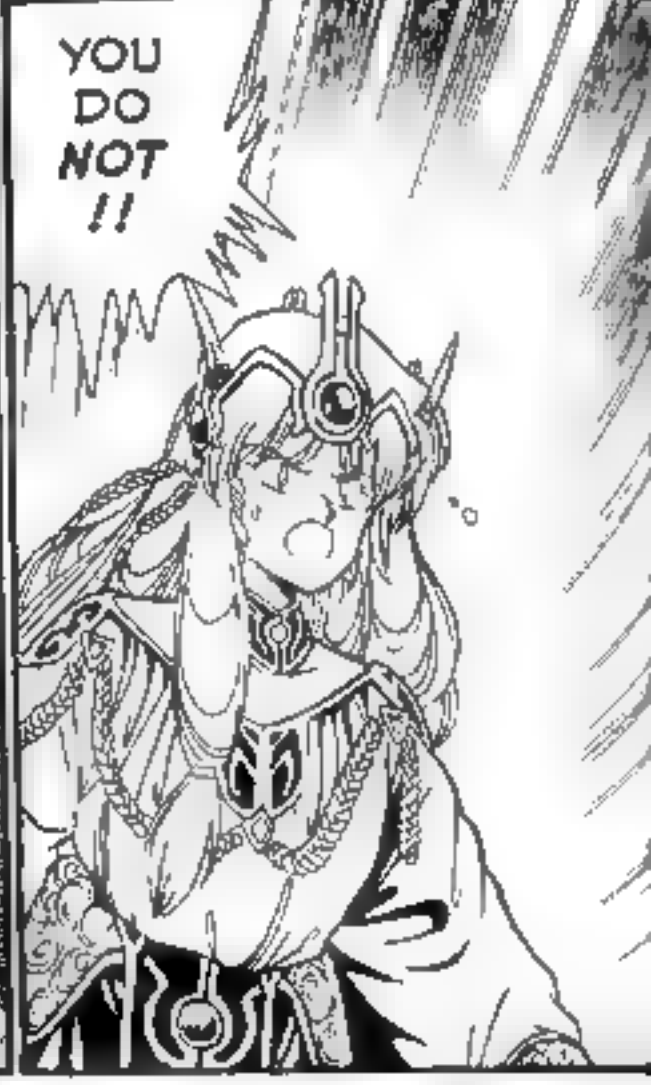
THEIR ONLY CONDITION FOR A CEASEFIRE IS...

...TO HAND OVER PRINCESS KARULA TO THEIR CUSTODY!



FATHER...

...I'VE COME TO SAY GOOD-BYE.



ROSALIA...?!

DO YOU REALLY UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?!

B-BUT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS WAR IS ALL MINE...

FOOL!!

DO YOU THINK *ARL* WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU IN THE HANDS OF THE EMPIRE?!

EH?!

ROSALIA...

Y-YOU KNEW ABOUT ME AND ARL...?

AN EDUCATED GUESS...

I'M YOUR *SISTER*, REMEMBER?

ARL DIED PROTECTING *YOU*, KARULA.

FOR HIS SAKE AS WELL AS OURS, *PLEASE* STOP THINKING ABOUT GOING OFF MEEKLY TO *DIE!*

B-BUT...

SMAK

OWW! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER! IS THIS ANY WAY FOR A PROUD PRINCESS OF THE HOUSE OF OLZEN TO BEHAVE?!

YOU'RE THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES!

IF YOU KEEP MOPING AROUND LIKE THIS, WHAT WILL IT DO TO MORALE ?!

WHETHER WE ACCEPT THIS CEASE-FIRE OFFER OR NOT IS UP TO *ME!* THE RULER OF THIS NATION!

YOU WILL RETURN TO THE FRONT *IMMEDIATELY!* AND THAT'S AN *ORDER!*

DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BREAK THROUGH THE IMPERIAL LINES!

ROSALIA

WE...WE'LL RELEASE A STATEMENT SAYING THAT YOU DIED IN COMBAT.

UNDERSTAND...? BUT NOW YOU MUST ESCAPE ON YOUR OWN.

JUST WAIT ONE MINUTE, HERE! WHAT KIND OF ORDER IS THAT?! YOU'RE TELLING ME TO RUN AWAY LIKE A *COWARD?!*

THERE'S A SECRET PASSAGE IN THE CASTLE CELLARS. IT RUNS TO THE NORTHERN BLUFFS.

THE *HELL* I WILL! I'M GOING DOWN *FIGHTING!* I'M NOT BEATEN *YET!*

KARULA! THE BATTLE HAS JUST BEGUN!

EVEN IF THIS COUNTRY FALLS, THE WAR AGAINST THE EMPIRE MUST GO ON.

BUT...IF THAT HAPPENS, WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU? TO FATHER?!

I AM THE RULER OF THIS COUNTRY. I WILL BE HERE TO THE END.

THEN *NO WAY!* I'M *STAYING!* I'M *NOT* GOING TO JUST ABANDON YOU AND FATHER!

KARULA...

FATHER...?

LISTEN WELL, MY DAUGHTER.

TRULY, AT TIMES TO LIVE ON CAN BE MORE PAINFUL THAN A THOUSAND DEATHS.

BUT YOU'RE A STRONG GIRL.

I KNOW YOU CAN TRANSCEND THE PAIN.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND, KARULA? THE WAR WITH THE ROMUNILIAN EMPIRE HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.

YET IT IS NOT JUST FOR LEDOMIAM THAT I ASK THIS OF YOU.

IT IS FOR THE WHOLE WORLD, FOR THE PEOPLE, FOR ALL THE RACES. SO LONG AS EVIL STILL LIVES AND BREATHES, YOU MUST FIGHT ON!

THAT IS YOUR *DESTINY*, KARULA.

IN YOUR HEART, YOU KNOW IT TO BE TRUE.

....

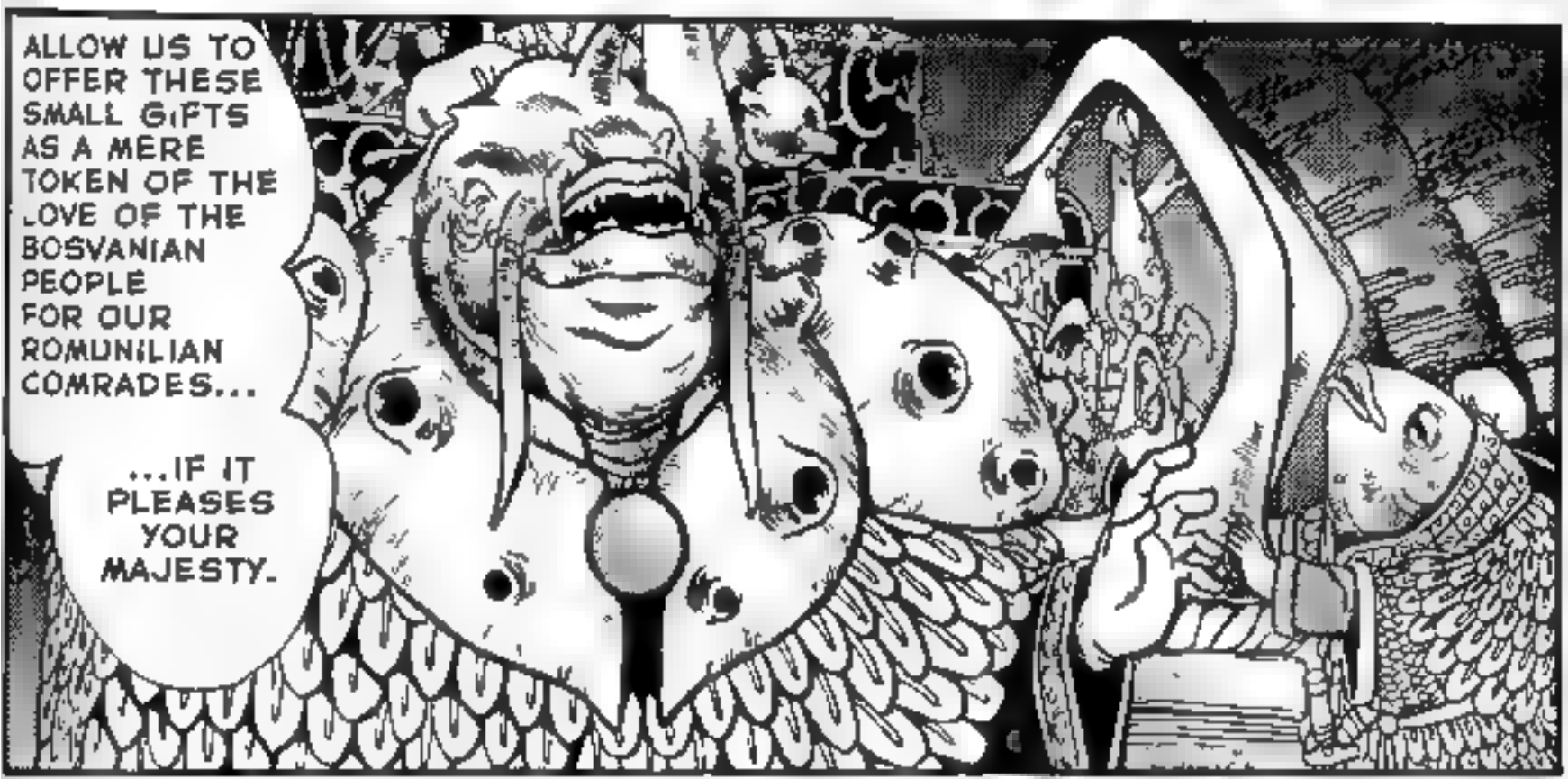
....

BE WELL, FATHER...

AND YOU, MY LOVE.

YOUR MAJESTY... YOUR LOYAL FRIENDS IN BOSVANIA CONGRATULATE YOU ON THIS SPLENDID VICTORY!

WITH THIS EPIC TRIUMPH, THE REIGN OF EMPEROR GUSTAV SHALL LAST FOREVER! UNSHAKABLE, MAGNIFICENT, *ETERNAL!*



AND NOW, ABOUT THAT TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES...
BOH-TON!
Y-YOUR MAJESTY ?
YOU LET PRINCESS KARULA GET AWAY, YOU INCOMPETENT SACK OF FISHMEAL!
AH, AH, AH... Y-YES! WE SEARCHED EVERY CORNER OF KARE-JAS, BUT IN THE CONFUSION, REGRETTABLY...
STILL, SHE IS JUST ONE WOMAN...
YOU FOOL !!
THAT WOMAN STRUCK AT ME! SHE SPILLED MY BLOOD!
FOR THAT ALONE SHE MUST BE TORN APART ALIVE! AND THAT ONLY AFTER A YEAR OF TORMENT!

UNDER-STAND ?!
WHRAK
AIEE!
YOU WILL FIND THAT WOMAN! YOU WILL BRING HER HERE TO ME!
AFTER THAT, WE TALK!
Y-YES, YOUR HIGHNESS!
I SHALL STAKE MY VERY LIFE UPON IT!

IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG, HAS IT NOT...

...EMPEROR GUSTAV.

KURGH... ? IS IT YOU ?

INDEED.

I AM PLEASED TO SEE YOUR HIGHNESS IN SUCH GOOD SPIRITS.

I, *KURGH*-- SUPREME WARLOCK GENERAL OF YOUR EMPIRE-- AM EVER AT YOUR SERVICE.

SO...DOES YOUR HIGHNESS PUT HIS TRUST IN THAT CUNNING FISH?

DO YOU THINK I AM *THAT* NAIVE, KURGH?

THE REPOSITORY OF MY ULTIMATE TRUST IS YOU AND YOU ALONE.

YOU HONOR ME, MY LORD...

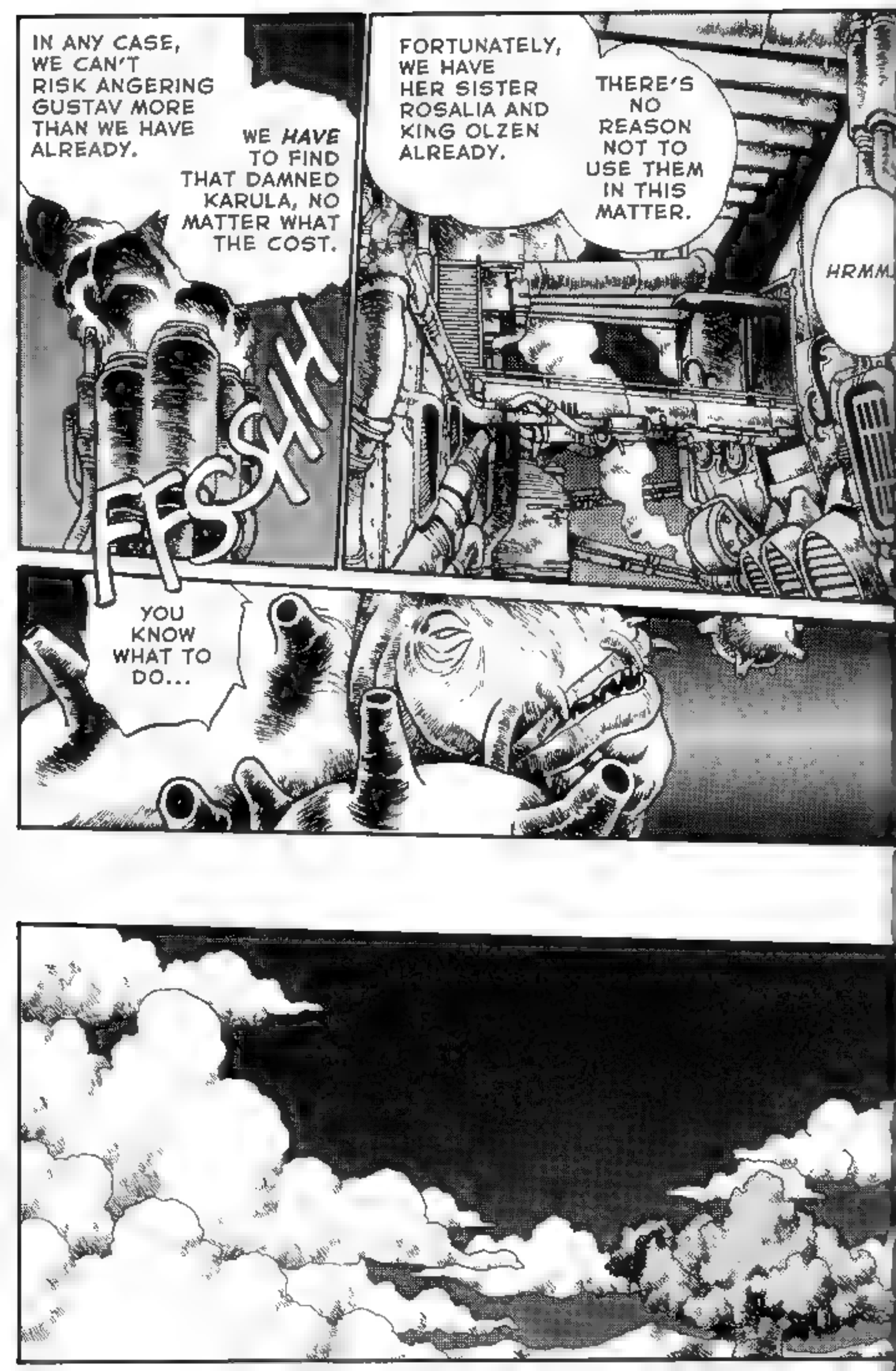
IN THE NAME OF KURGH, AND ON THE HONOR OF THE WARLOCKS...

...I PLEDGE TO BRING THE PRINCESS KARULA BEFORE YOU IN CHAINS.

DAMN! CURSE THAT WILD LITTLE BRAT!

THANKS TO THAT WOMAN, OUR TRADE AGREEMENT AND TERRITORIAL GUARANTEES ARE ON HOLD!

THEN WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THROWING IN WITH THE EMPIRE, EH?!


IN ANY CASE, WE CAN'T RISK ANGERING GUSTAV MORE THAN WE HAVE ALREADY.
WE HAVE TO FIND THAT DAMNED KARULA, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST.
FSSH
FORTUNATELY, WE HAVE HER SISTER ROSALIA AND KING OLZEN ALREADY.
THERE'S NO REASON NOT TO USE THEM IN THIS MATTER.
HRMM
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO...

OF THE CONTINENT.
THE FREE-TRADE CITY OF ZAARU.

WHDD
WHDD
WHDD
WHDD
WHDD
WHDD
COMMANDER! DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT WOMAN'S HIDING OUT AROUND HERE?
HELL IF I KNOW. JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS, NUMBER TWO.

AH, WHAT AN HONOR, WHAT A DELIGHT! WELCOME, BRAVE HEROES OF THE BORDER PATROL! I AM THE MAYOR OF ZAARU...
THIS DUMP HAS A MAYOR ?
THE NAME'S DARD-- *COMMANDER DARD.* BOSS OF THE *MEAN MOTHER ASS-KICKERS...* THAT'S THE "ROYAL BORDER GUARD" TO *YOU,* BEAKY.
SO, *UH,* SIR... TO WHAT DO WE OWE THIS HONOR? IS THERE SOME PROBLEM...?
NAW, NOTHING SPECIAL. DON'T SHIT A BRICK.
THAT'S A RELIEF AND NO MISTAKE, SIR. WE'VE SIGHTED BOSVANIAN SOLDIERS OUTSIDE TOWN.
THEY'LL GET AWAY WITH NOTHING ON MY WATCH, FRIEND. THIS IS *OUR* DAMNED COUNTRY.
YOUR STRENGTH RELIEVES US, SIR.
DAMN THOSE BOSVANIAN FISH HEADS... ACTING BIG WITH THE EMPIRE BEHIND THEM.
HMM... DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE LOOKING FOR THIS PRINCESS DAME, TOO?

HEY, COMMANDER! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WELL, HELL...
FIGURE WE KICK BACK A WHILE. IT'S A BULLSHIT JOB, ANYWAY.
YO, MAYOR! YOU GOT ANY DECENT BOOZERS ?
YES, SIR! RIGHT OVER THERE IS THE AFGHAN, SIR. YOU WON'T FIND BETTER.

GLUG GLUG GLUG

YAAAH!

NOW *THAT* HITS THE DAMN SPOT!

WK

DRINK UP, BOYS! IT'S ALL ON ME!

YAHOO!

SO, COMMANDER... WHAT DO YOU FIGURE PRINCESS KARULA DID, *HMM?*

AIN'T YOU HEARD? SEEMS THE LITTLE BROAD WENT AND DICED UP EMPEROR GUSTAV HIMSELF.

NO SHIT ?!

THAT'S PRETTY DAMN BALLSY.

HUH... BALLSY, OR JUST DAMNED STUPID, I DUNNO.

YEAH... THEY SAY SHE'S ONE WILD LADY.

KINDA MAKES ME WANNA... *AW*, WHAT THE HELL. SHE'S PROBABLY GOT A FACE LIKE A HAMMERED TURNIP ANYWAY...

HM?

ALL RIGHT! FINALLY!

SUCH PLEASURE, SUCH JOY TO GAZE UPON ALL THESE SMILING FACES!

I AM NONE OTHER THAN... ***BABON!*** LEADER OF THE CONTINENT'S FINEST, THE FAMOUS, THE ***MAGNIFICENT*** AKOGI FAMILY CIRCUS!!

AH, TO PLAY THIS EXALTED STAGE BEFORE SUCH A NOBLE AUDIENCE!

WHUD TH' HELL? GEDDON WIT' IT !

I AM ***CRYING,*** DEAR FRIENDS! I WEEP TEARS OF ***GRATITUDE!***

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF PLEASURE, LORDS AND LADIES!!

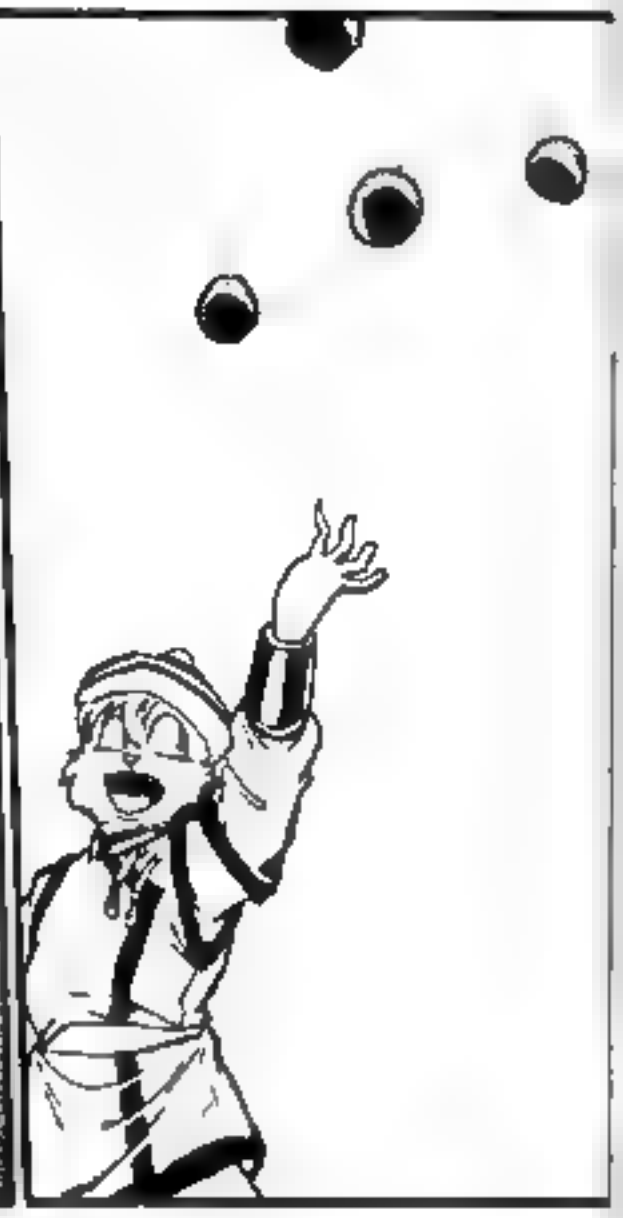
HIYA, BOYS !!

BWAHAHA!!
DAMN THAT HAYSEED MONKEY SHOW!
LISTEN TO THAT DUMB HICK LAUGH!
IT'S GETTIN' ON MY NERVES!!
AW... HAVE ANOTHER DRINK!

HEY!
TAKE YOUR DAMNED FLEA-BAG, TWO-BIT, AMATEUR--
URNK ?!
AND NOW, WHO YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR!
OUR AKOGI FAMILY'S PRIDE AND JOY! THE QUEEN OF LETHAL SWORDSMANSHIP! RAYM AND HER DEADLY CURTAIN OF STEEL!!
YOW, BABE!

RAYM SAYS SHE NEEDS TO WARM UP, MY LORDS! FIRST, SHE'LL HELP THAT YOUNG MAN SLICE HIS APPLES!
CLANGG

COOL!
WHOOSH!



THOK

SHEE-IT... THAT'S A PRETTY HOT ACT FOR A BACK-COUNTRY CIRCUS...
HER SWORD WORK...IT'S NOT JUST FOR SHOW. THE GIRL'S A *KILLER*, MY FRIEND.

HEY, BOSS!! WHAT A PIECE OF ASS, EH?! AND JUST YOUR TYPE, TOO!

YEAH, MAYBE...

WHADDA BUNCHA CRAP!! DAT SWORD-WORK'S A FRIGGIN' FAKE!

PAM

!

I MAKE MY WAY IN DIS WORLD WITH ONE COLD BLADE, UNNER-STAND?!

YOU WANNA TEST IT, GIRLIE?!

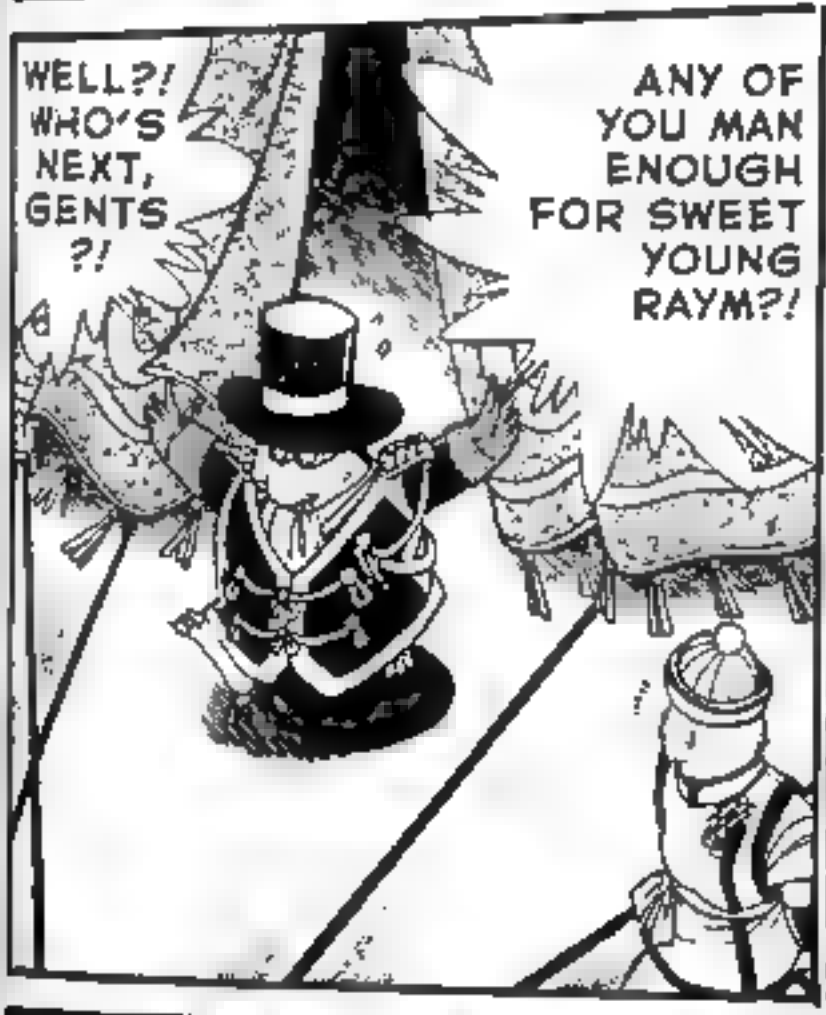
HEH...

HO!! YA FIGGER YER TOUGH, EH?!

YEAH! GO FOR IT!

DON'CHA FIGGER I'LL GO EASY ON YA JJST 'CJZ YOU IS A DAME!
MA'AM...
RAYM ..
DAMN FOO...
RUAAAAH!!
SPRAKANG

KRASH
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP


WELL?! WHO'S NEXT, GENTS ?!
ANY OF YOU MAN ENOUGH FOR SWEET YOUNG RAYM?!

BOSS! ARE YOU NUTS ?!
DON'T WORRY, BOY! THE CROWDS LOVE THIS SORT OF THING!

SHIT, YEAH! LEMME GIVE HER A TRY!
ME, TOO! I DON'T CARRY THIS SWORD FOR NUTHIN'!

HURRAH!
YAY!

TWIP

KRNCH
YAIEEE!!
NEXT? NEXT...? NO ONE LEFT...?!
WOW, MA'AM! YOU REALLY ARE GREAT!
THANKS, CHEN.
AW, WHAT TH' HECK.
I'LL TAKE A STAB AT HER.

WHOA! IT'S THE COMMANDER OF THE ROYAL BORDER GUARD! HE'S ONE MEAN BASTARD!

GO FOR IT, COMMANDER! TAKE HER OUT!

YOW! THIS IS *BAD NEWS*, MA'AM! HE LOOKS SUPER-*TOUGH!*

IT'S ALL RIGHT, OKAY? DON'T WORRY YOUR-SELF.

AH, AH... COMMANDER, SIR? THAT YOUNG LADY'S OUR STAR ATTRACTION.

DON'T BE *TOO* HARD ON HER...

DON'T SWEAT IT, BUD.

LEMME MAKE YA A DEAL.

IF I WIN, AND I DON'T HURT HER, YOU LET ME HAVE HER FOR THE NIGHT.

EH ?!

SAYS WHO ?!
KRAK
HO... YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY.
TURNS ME ON, BABE!
HOW HOW DARE YOU ?
NRGG...
SHRAKK
KANG

SPRAK
KRAK
NYA HA HA! I LIKE 'EM LIVELY!
SPLASH
WHAM

WHPSHH
WRAM
THAP
HO...

KRANGG

LOOKS LIKE YOU DON'T WANT MY LOVING, EH?

OF COURSE NOT! YOU...
YOU BIG LUGHEAD!

HIP
WHSSH
THAK

GUESS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, BABE.

IT'S AN *HONOR* TO SPEND A NIGHT WITH ME.

I'VE ONLY GOT TIME FOR THE BEST, SEE?

L-LET GO OF ME! YOU FURBALL CREEP!

DON'T SQUIRM AROUND LIKE THAT, GIRL. THE NIGHT'LL BE LONGER IF YOU START ALL TUCKERED OUT.

I'M WARNING YOU. .OVER-CONFIDENT HUNKS LIKE YOU...

...*PISS ME OFF!*

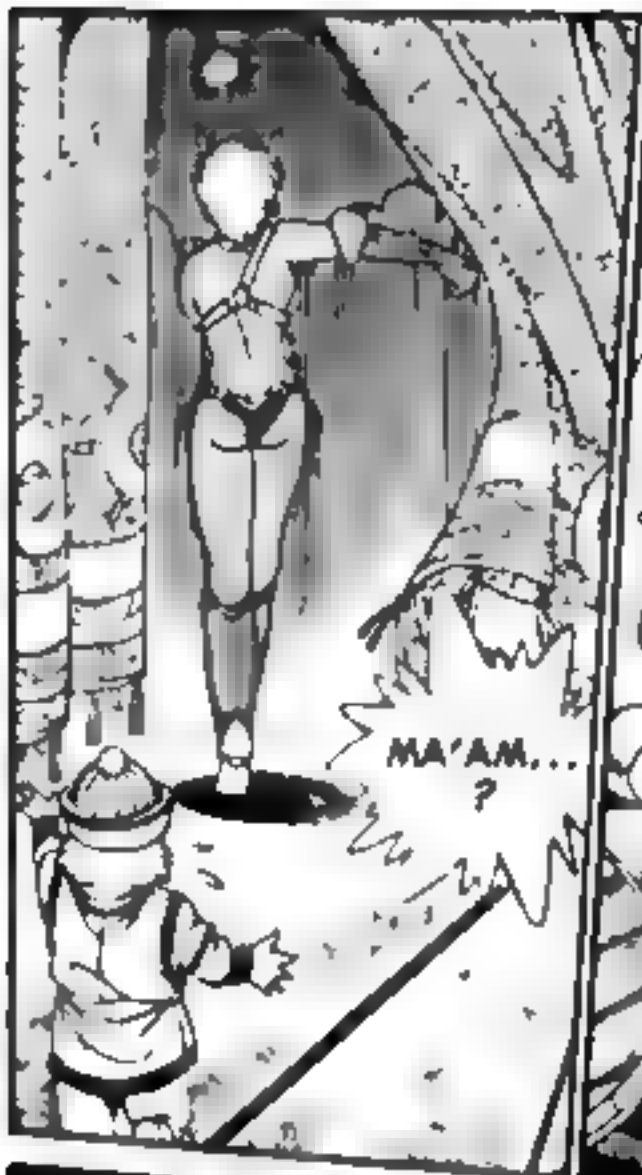
FWI

HEY-?!

WHAT THE-?!

HR RNK!
KRAK

WHRD
BOSS ?!
BOSS...? C'MON, WAKE UP, BOSS!
SOMEONE GET ME A BUCKET OF WATER!
HAHHE
HAHHE
YOU IDIOT! YOU TRYING TO KILL OUR CUSTOMERS ?!
YOU'RE LUCKY HE HAD SUCH A GOOD HELMET ON!
HMPH !


MA'AM...
?

HEY, BOSS! YOU OKAY ?!
UHNNG....

SIR! I'M SO TERRIBLY SORRY, COMMANDER, SIR!
JUST ME A LUMP MY HE FORGE

HNNG...
DAMN... NOW SHE'S GOT ME REAL INTERESTED.

KSSHHHH

UMM...THOSE GUYS CALL THEMSELVES THE ROYAL BORDER GUARD, BJT THEY'RE REALLY JUST A BJNCH OF DOWN-AND-OUT THUGS.
THAT'S ALL THE COURT HIRES ANYMORE. PEOPLE ARE HOPPING MAD ABOUT IT, TOO!
REALLY ?
MY, MY.
YEAH! AND EVERYONE SAYS THOSE GUYS ARE THE WORST OF THE BUNCH!

CHEN! PASS ME THE SHAMPOO, OKAY?

....

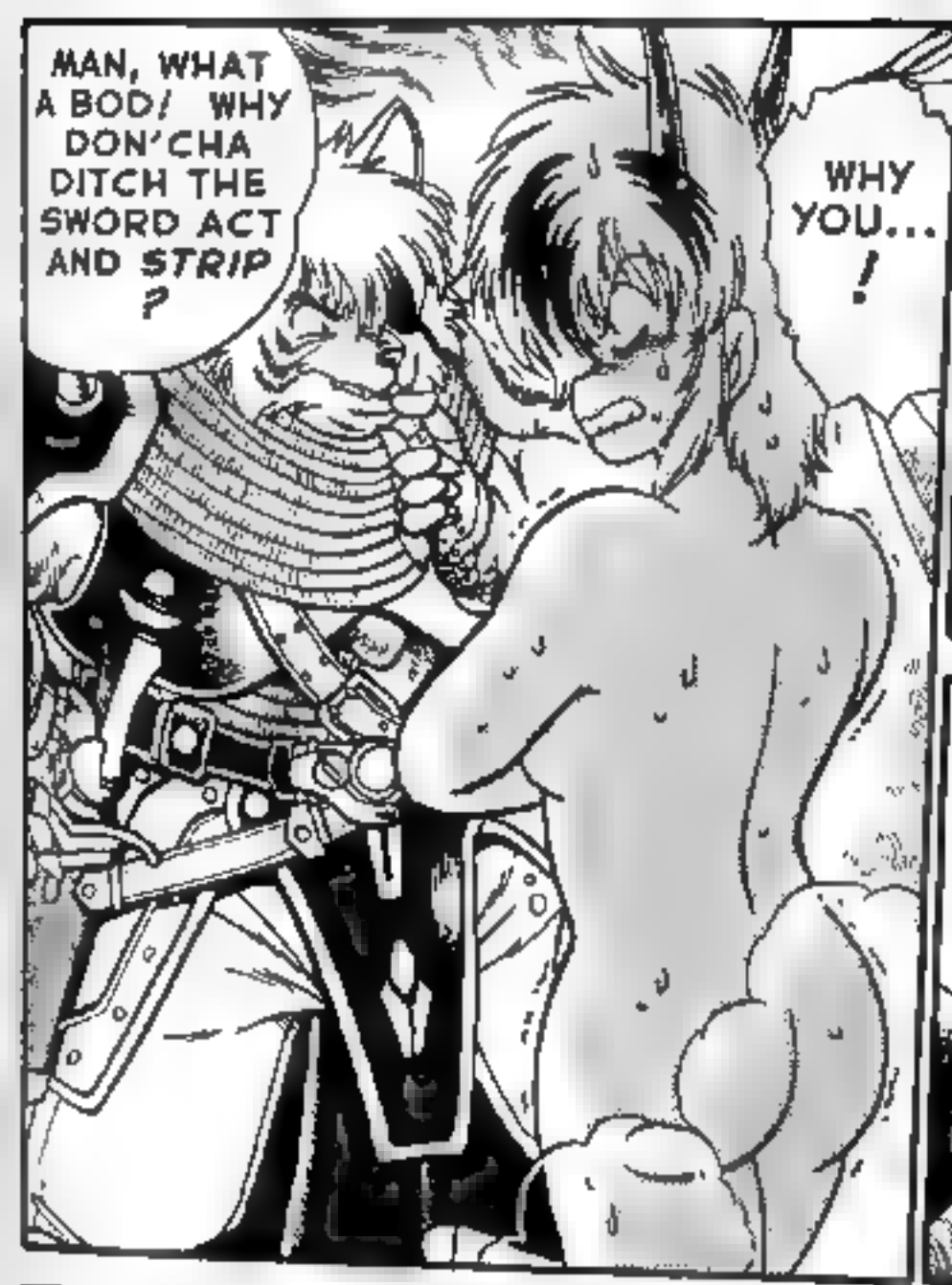
...?

HM ?

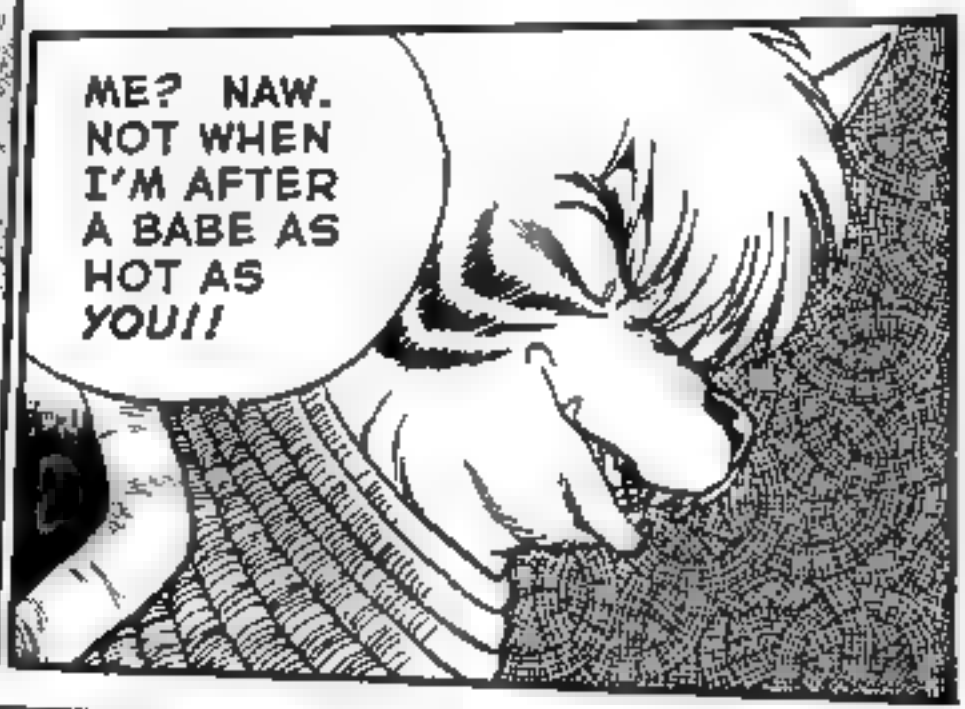
HEY, CHEN! GET YOUR BUTT IN GEAR! I--

YO, DARLIN' !

SAY, I THOUGHT YOU HAD DARKER SKIN THAN THAT... WAS THAT JUST MAKEUP OR SOMETHIN'...?

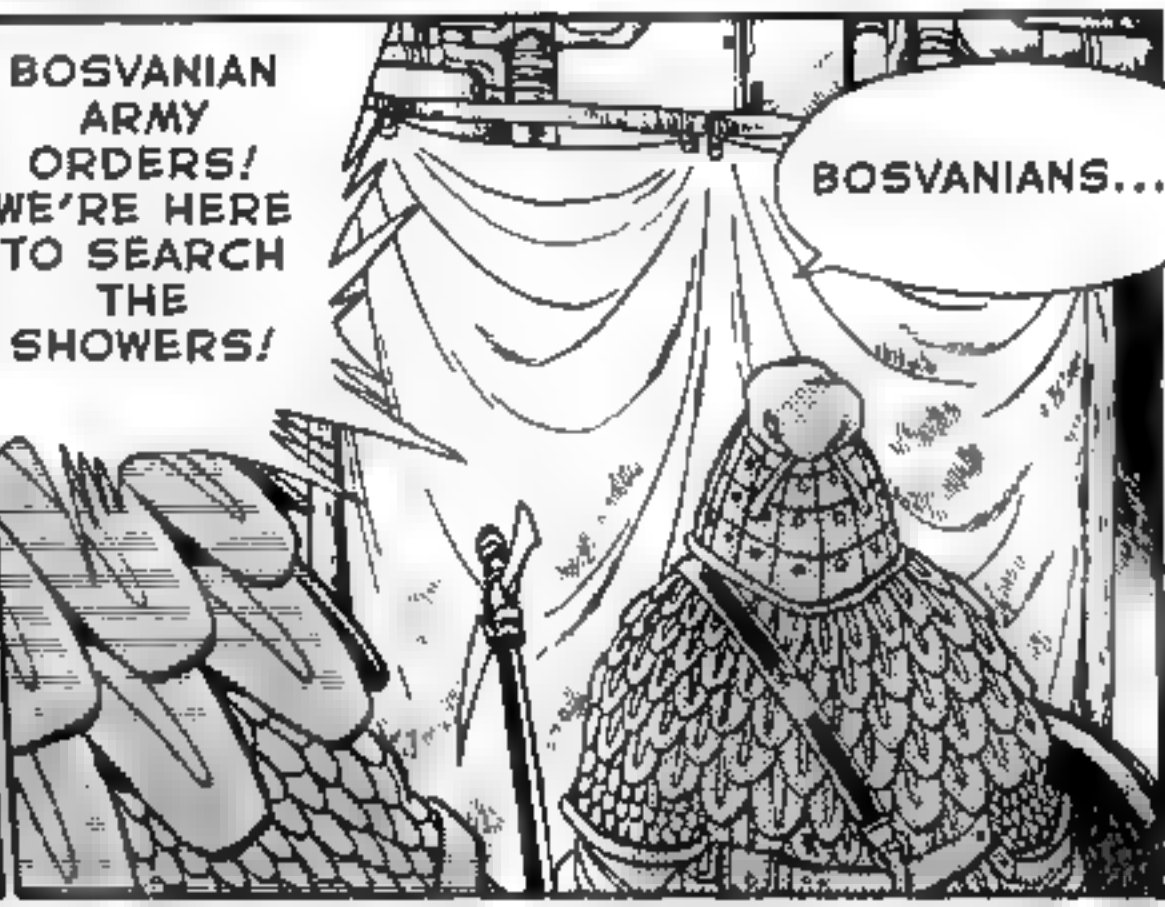

MAN, WHAT A BOD! WHY DON'CHA DITCH THE SWORD ACT AND *STRIP* ?
WHY YOU... !

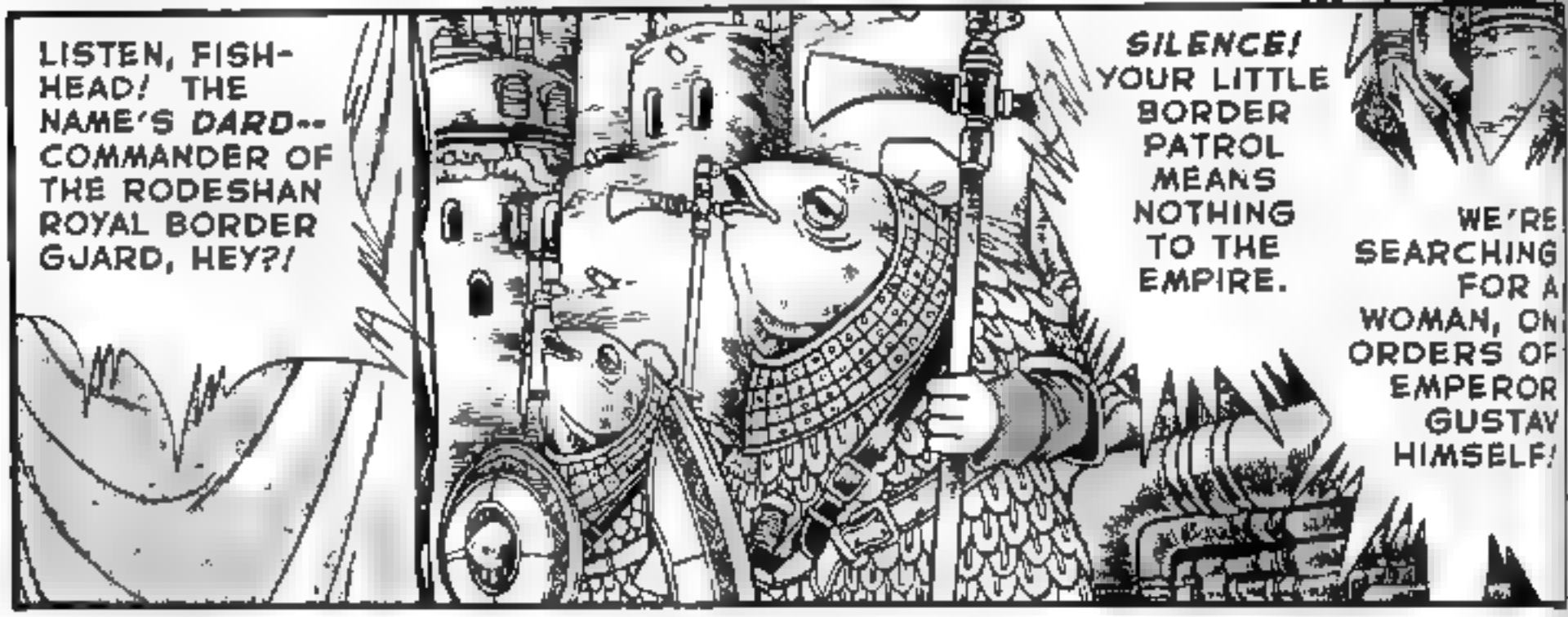
DON'T YOU *EVER* GIVE UP?!

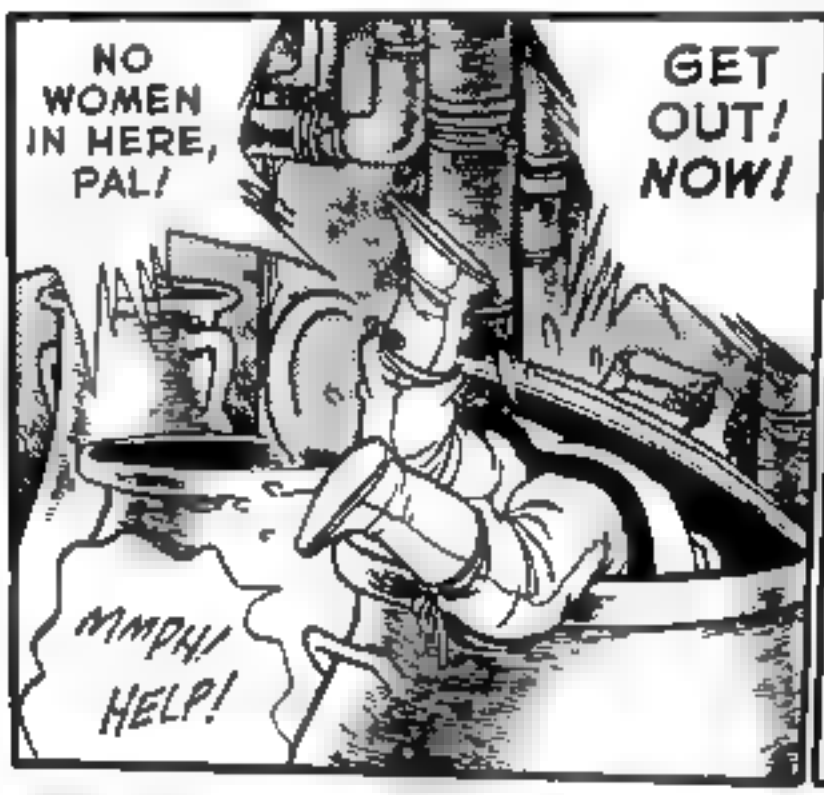

ME? NAW. NOT WHEN I'M AFTER A BABE AS HOT AS *YOU!!*

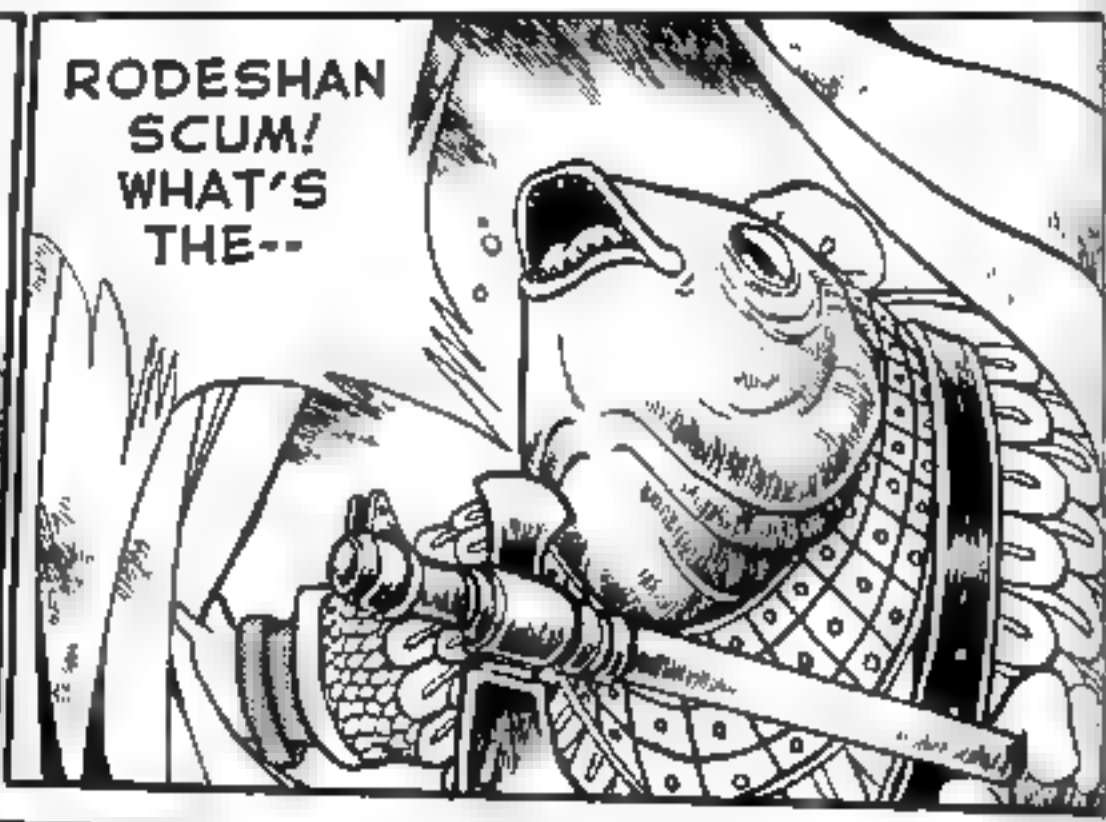
HUH? "HOT"...? *ME?*
WAIT A SEC! HOW *DARE* YOU SHOVE YOUR WAY INTO MY SHOWER!
YOU IN THERE! COME OUT HERE *NOW!*

SAYS WHO ?


BOSVANIAN ARMY ORDERS! WE'RE HERE TO SEARCH THE SHOWERS!
BOSVANIANS...?


LISTEN, FISH-HEAD! THE NAME'S DARD-- COMMANDER OF THE RODESHAN ROYAL BORDER GUARD, HEY?!
SILENCE! YOUR LITTLE BORDER PATROL MEANS NOTHING TO THE EMPIRE.
WE'RE SEARCHING FOR A WOMAN, ON ORDERS OF EMPEROR GUSTAV HIMSELF!


NO WOMEN IN HERE, PAL!
GET OUT! NOW!
MMPH! HELP!


RODESHAN SCUM! WHAT'S THE--

HUH...
.....
YOU BOYS GETTIN' OFF ON MY HAIRY BUTT OR SOMETHING?! BEAT IT!
GURK!

THIS INSUBORDINATION WILL BE REPORTED, COMMANDER DARD!
YUCK!
!!
HEH, HEH, HEH. THAT SENT 'EM PACKING.
AND WHY DON'T YOU FOLLOW THEM ?!
URGH !!
KLUDD
THAT'S HARSH, GIRL! YOU OWE ME BETTER'N THAT!
STOP YOUR DAMN WHINING!
BKAM
BKAM
EEEEK!
HEY!
HELP!
SKRASH

MOVE IT!
EVERY-ONE DOWN TO THE SQUARE!
CHECK EVERY CITIZEN-- NO EXCEP-TIONS!
GRNW GRNW
I WANT CARGO MANIFESTS FOR EVERY SHIPMENT THAT'S ENTERED OR LEFT THIS FLEA-BITTEN DUMP IN THE LAST WEEK!
AND ROUND UP THE TOWN LEADERS!

WHUPS !
THE EMPIRE?! ALL THE WAY OUT IN THIS HICK TOWN?
YOU! WENCH! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
WAIT !
YOU'RE HER! D-DON'T MO-
WELL, SHIT !!

SKRIKK
HLURGH!
AHH, WELCOME! WELCOME, FIERCE AND NOBLE TROOPERS!
I ADMIRE YOUR STALWART DEDICATION, SIRS! THE ARMY NEVER RESTS! NO, SIR!
A WOMAN? ON THE WANTED LIST?
HEAVENS NO, SIR. WE ARE A RESPECTABLE TROUPE. WE HAVE OUR PAPERS, SIR, FOR PERFORMING ON IMPERIAL SOIL.

IT IS INCONCEIVABLE, NAY, UNIMAGINABLE THAT SUCH A SHE-DEVIL WOULD BE AMONG US, SIR!
THEN DID YOU EVER NOTICE A WOMAN LIKE THIS IN YOUR AUDIENCES, EH?
HEY! THAT'S RA--
SSH!
WHAT THE DEVIL?! YOU DO KNOW SOME-THING!
NO! GOODNESS NO...!
I'VE NEVER SEEN NOR HEARD OF SUCH A WOMAN, ON MY HONOR!
SO YOU SAY. MEN-- TEAR THIS PLACE APART!
AHH! PLEASE WAIT BUT ONE MOMENT!
I KNOW YOU GENTLEMEN HAVE MANY OTHER DUTIES TODAY...
...
...
HRMPH! IT'S EVIDENT SHE ISN'T HERE!
G-GOOD DAY, SIRS! DELIGHTED TO BE OF ASSISTANCE!

CONFOUND IT, YOU MORONS! DON'T JUST STAND THERE! GET RID OF RAYM'S BAGGAGE!

B-BUT SIR, YOU CAN'T JUST--

OF *COURSE* I CAN, YOU FOOL!

YOU THINK WE CAN SHELTER A FUGITIVE FROM THE EMPIRE?!

B-BUT THAT'S SO *MEAN!* RAYM DIDN'T ASK TO BE ON THEIR DUMB LITTLE WANTED LIST!

DO YOU HAVE ANY BRAINS AT ALL, WOMAN?! OUR VERY LIVES ARE AT STAKE!

YEAH...GUESS I REALLY CAN'T STAY WITH THEM ANYMORE...

MA'AM!

CHEN?! WHERE DID YOU GET TO?

WHERE DID I GET TO?! THAT BIG HAIRY BRUTE STUFFED ME INTO A JAR!

OH DEAR

I WAS NOT HAPPY, LET ME TELL YOU.
CHEN...
LISTEN...

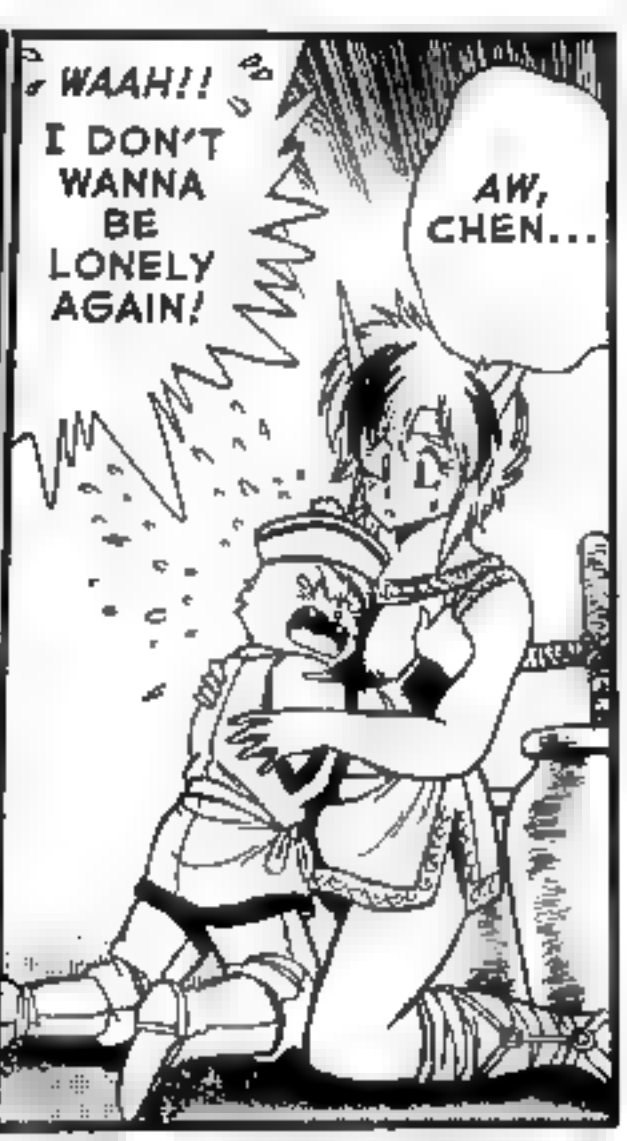
I'M GOING TO LEAVE THE CIRCUS. TODAY.
SO IT'S GOOD-BYE... EVEN TO YOU, DEAR CHEN.

HUH ?

BUT W-WHY, MA'AM?! AREN'T WE FUN ENOUGH FOR YOU?
IS IT 'CAUSE THE BOSS IS SUCH A SKINFLINT? 'CAUSE YOUR PAY'S TOO LOW?!
I'M SORRY, CHEN, BUT I REALLY CAN'T TELL YOU WHY.
BUT TRUST ME--IF I STAY HERE, IT'LL ONLY MEAN TROUBLE FOR EVERYBODY.

WHY?! WHO'S GONNA BE IN TROUBLE ?!

I WON'T... I, I...
I WON'T LEAVE YOU, MA'AM!


WAAH!! I DON'T WANNA BE LONELY AGAIN!
AW, CHEN...

DON'T CRY, YOU SILLY. YOU'RE A BIG BOY NOW, RIGHT?

BUT...

BUT...

I R-REALLY WANTED TO KEEP ON PERFORMING WITH YOU, MA'AM.

SNIFF

ME TOO, CHEN. ME TOO.

BUT...

...I HAVE NO CHOICE.

OKAY! IF YOU'RE GOING, THEN I'M GOING WITH YOU!

WHA-?

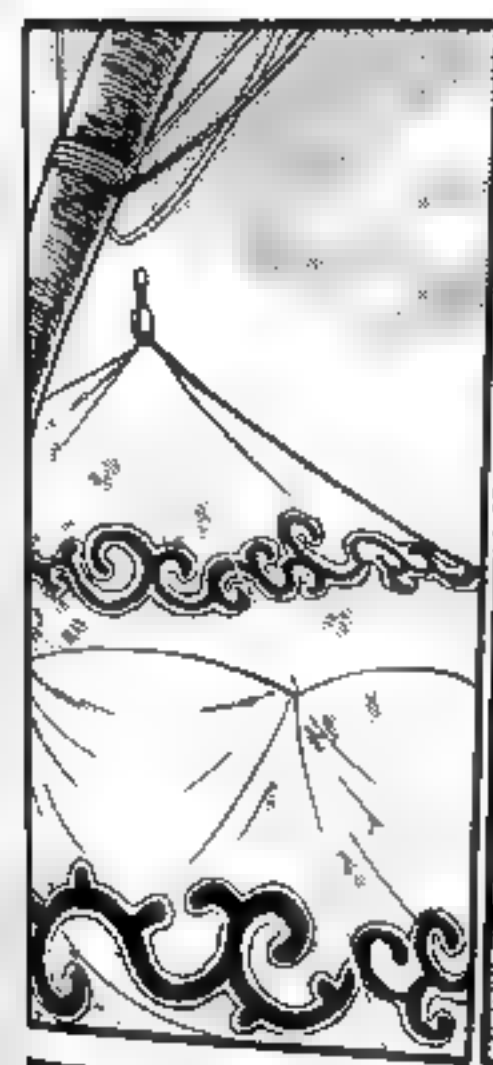
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU TOLD ME HOW YOU WERE GOING TO GROW UP TO BE A GREAT CIRCUS PERFORMER, REMEMBER?!

I CAN PRACTICE ON THE ROAD!

BESIDES, YOU CAN'T EVEN COOK FOR YOURSELF, MA'AM!

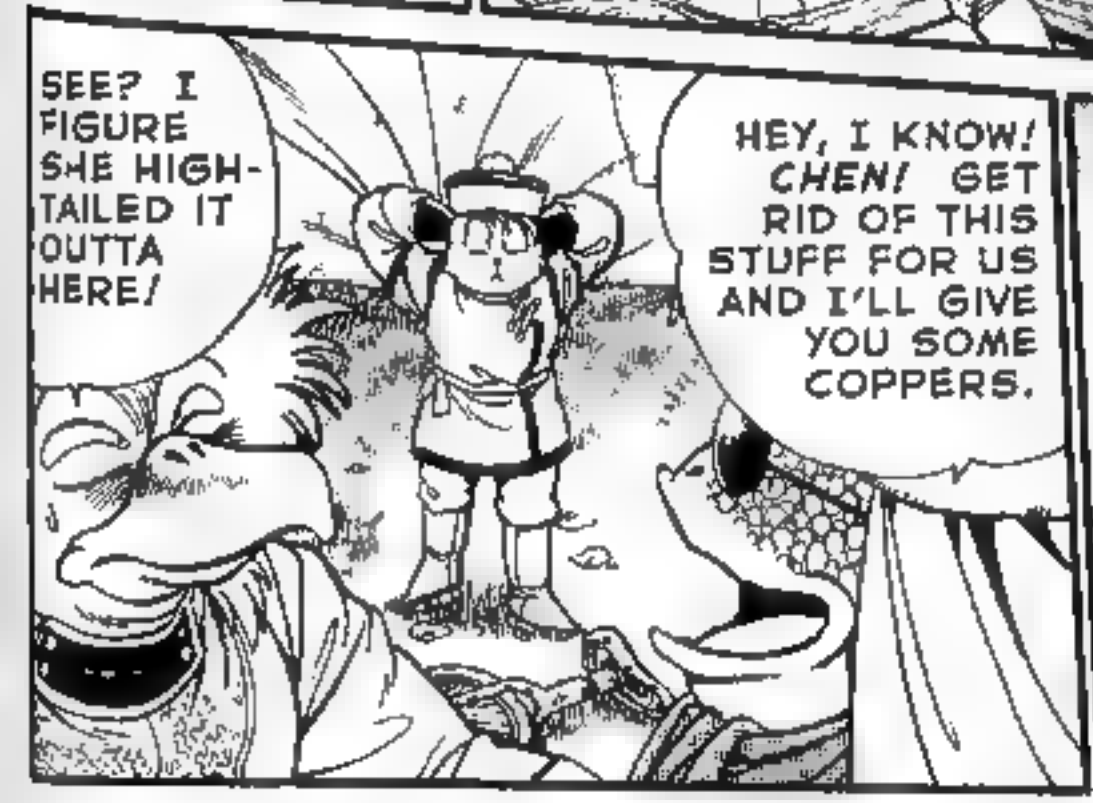
I'M A *WOMAN!* WE *ALL* KNOW HOW TO COOK, YOU KNOW!

SORRY, MA'AM, BUT YOU CAN'T EVEN BOIL WATER WITHOUT BURNING IT!

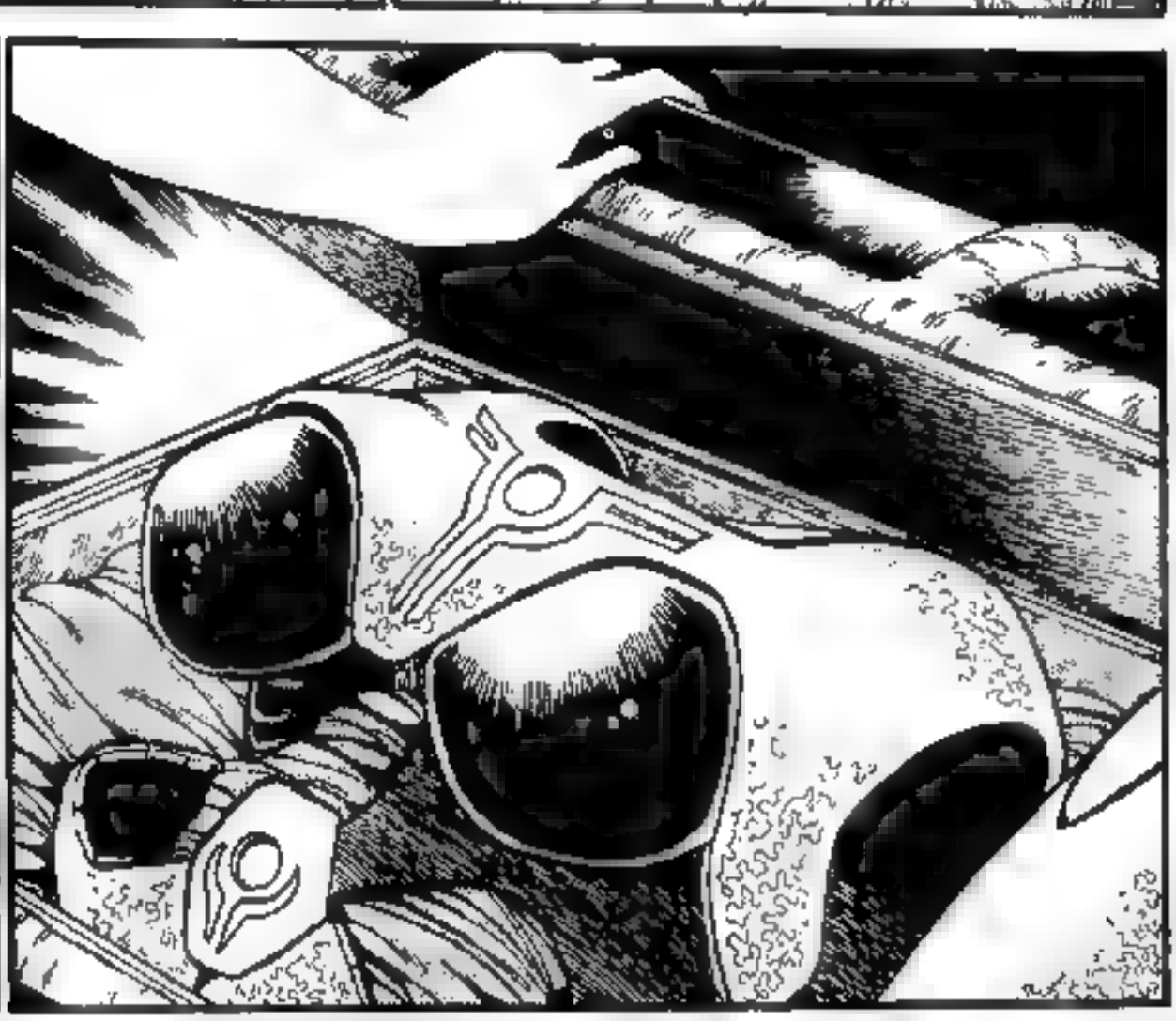


THIS ONE, TOO ?
YEESH... WHAT A PAIN...
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?

THAT YOU, CHEN? YOU KNOW WHERE RAYM'S GOT TO?
UMM... UH... NOPE.

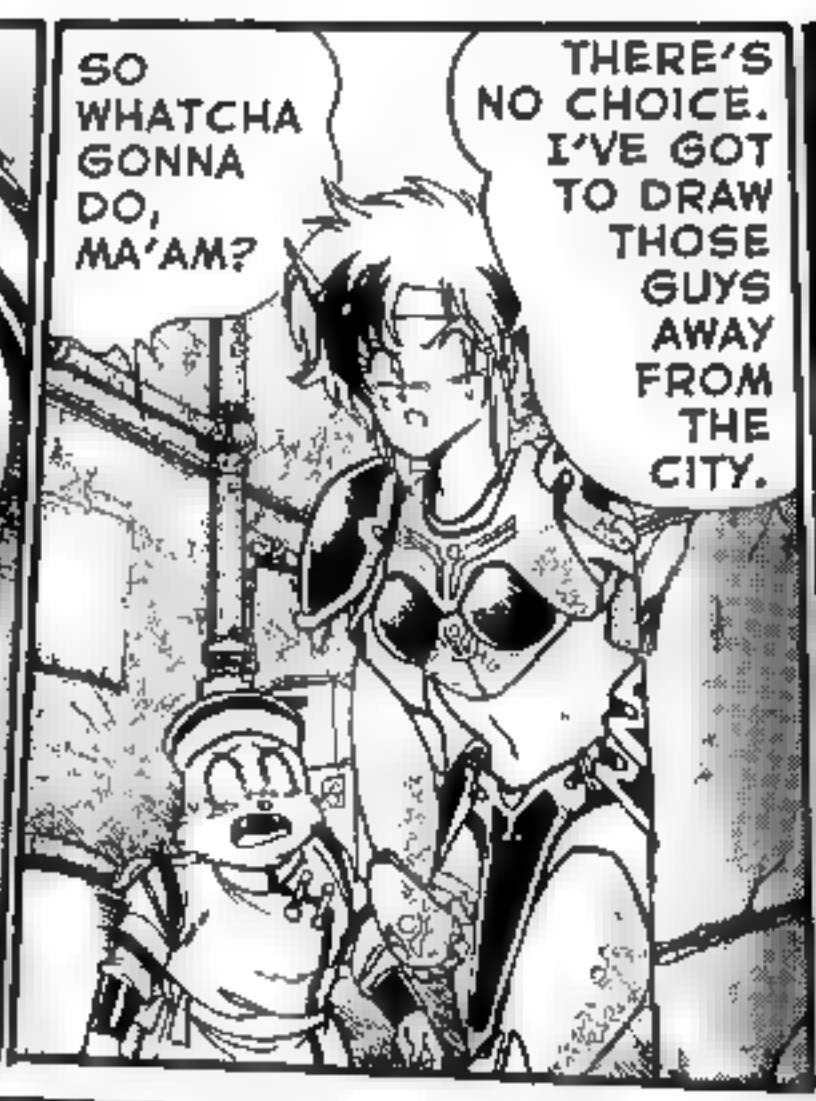

SEE? I FIGURE SHE HIGH-TAILED IT OUTTA HERE!
HEY, I KNOW! CHEN! GET RID OF THIS STUFF FOR US AND I'LL GIVE YOU SOME COPPERS.

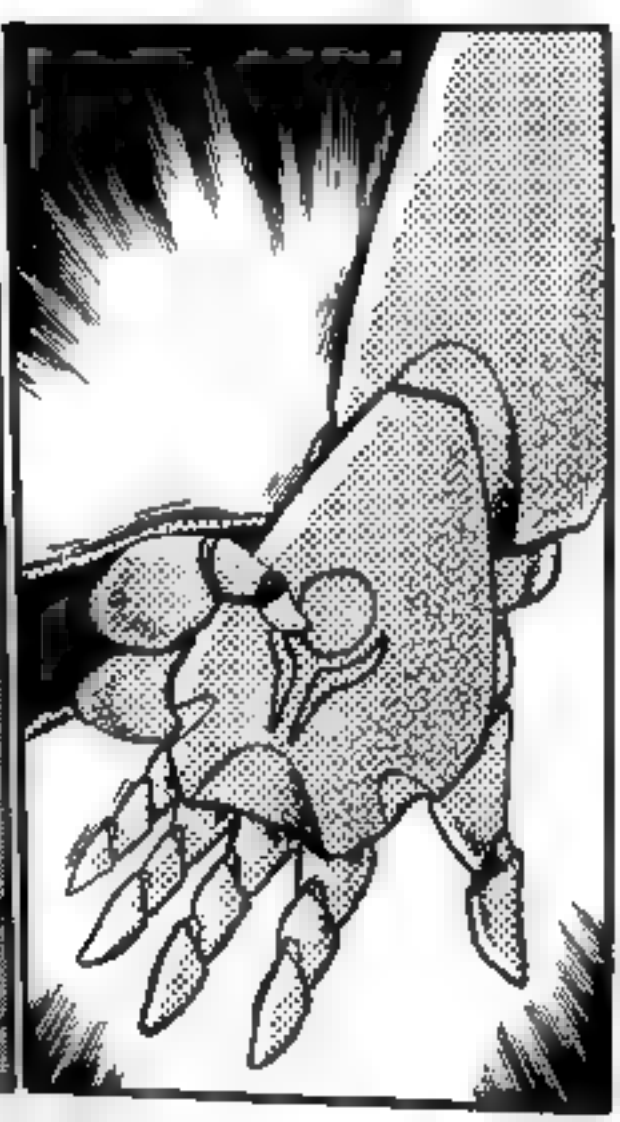
THANKS, CHEN!
WOW...IT WAS SUPER HEAVY! WHAT'S INSIDE?



HEAR YE! WE KNOW PRINCESS KARULA OF LEDOMIAM IS IN THIS TOWN! BY ORDER OF THE EMPEROR, YOU ARE ALL COMMANDED TO SEARCH FOR HER!

DAMN IT ALL! THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!

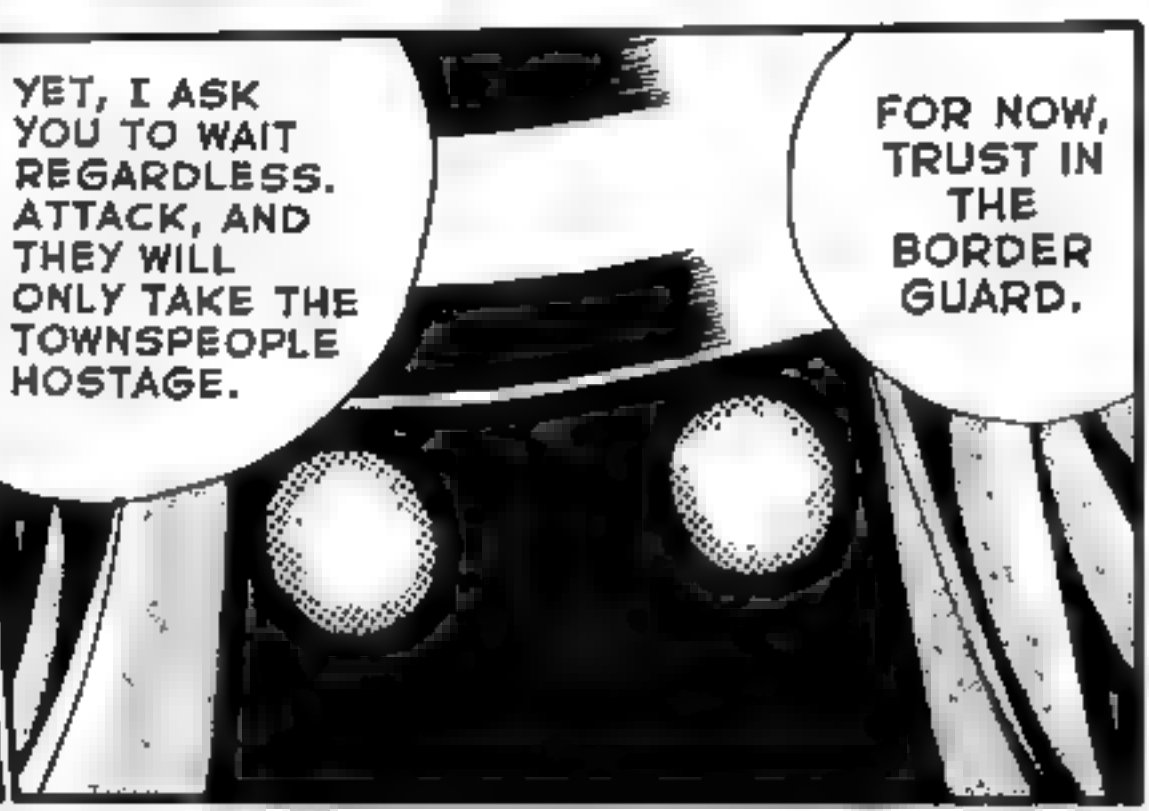

SO WHATCHA GONNA DO, MA'AM?
THERE'S NO CHOICE. I'VE GOT TO DRAW THOSE GUYS AWAY FROM THE CITY.



NOW IS NOT THE TIME.
!!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
IT MATTERS LITTLE. MERELY LISTEN TO THIS OLD MAN'S WORDS--DO NOT REVEAL YOURSELF!

LET GO OF ME!
NO ONE ORDERS ME AROUND!


YET, I ASK YOU TO WAIT REGARDLESS. ATTACK, AND THEY WILL ONLY TAKE THE TOWNSPEOPLE HOSTAGE.
FOR NOW, TRUST IN THE BORDER GUARD.

YOU! COME WITH US!
EEK!
WHAM
LEGGO OF ME, YOU DAMNED STINKING--!
WH-WHAT TH-?!

THE ROYAL BORDER GUARD! THEY'VE COME TO SAVE US!

WHO ARE YOU RUFFIANS ?!

WHAT THE HELL ARE EMPIRE BOOT-LICKERS DOING IN OUR BACKYARD ?!

AH-HAH! I SEE... YOU FOOLS MUST BE THE LOCAL BORDER PATROL.

I ORDER YOU TO COOPERATE WITH US! HELP US FIND PRINCESS KARULA!

IN YOUR DREAMS! YOU'RE JUST WASTING YOUR TIME.

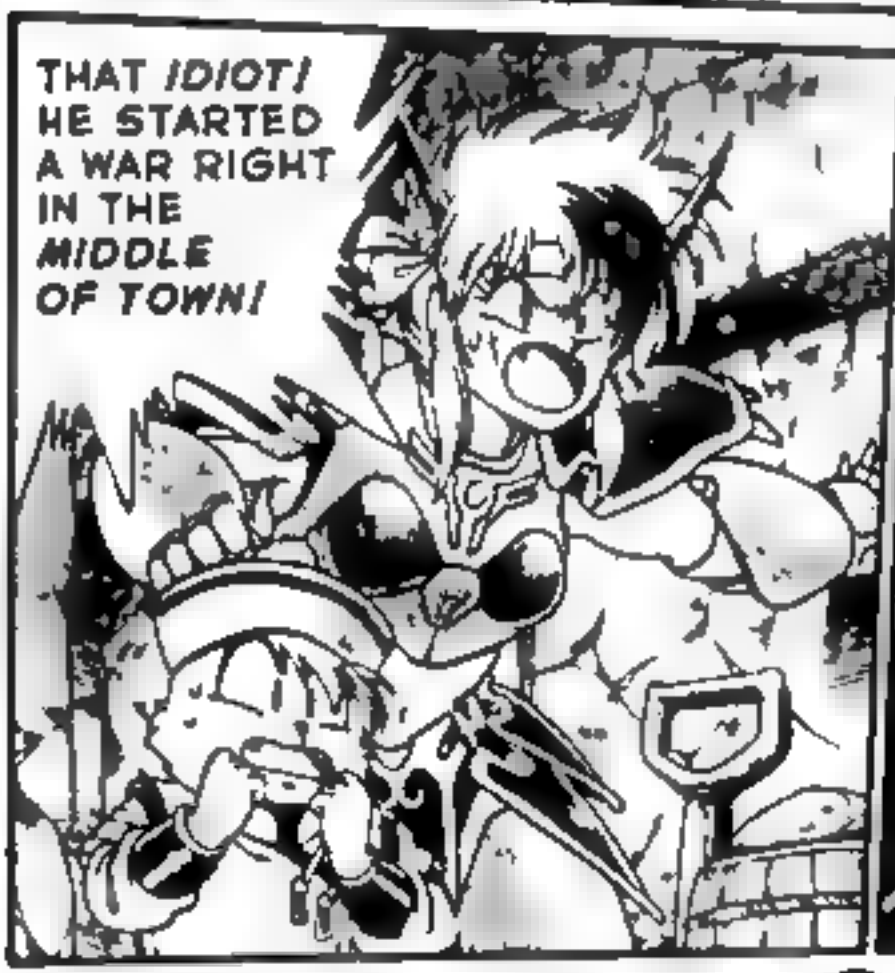
WHAT?! HOW DARE YOU DISOBEY THE WILL OF HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS, EMPEROR GUSTAV!
'CAUSE I DON'T WORK FOR YOUR DAMNED EMPIRE.
YOU LOSERS FIGURED YOU'D NEED TANKS TO TAKE ON ONE LITTLE DAME?
GIMME A BREAK!
WHRANG
STILL USING THAT CHEESY TAUREC ARMOR, I SEE.
WHAT'S IT MADE OF? OLD TIN CANS?

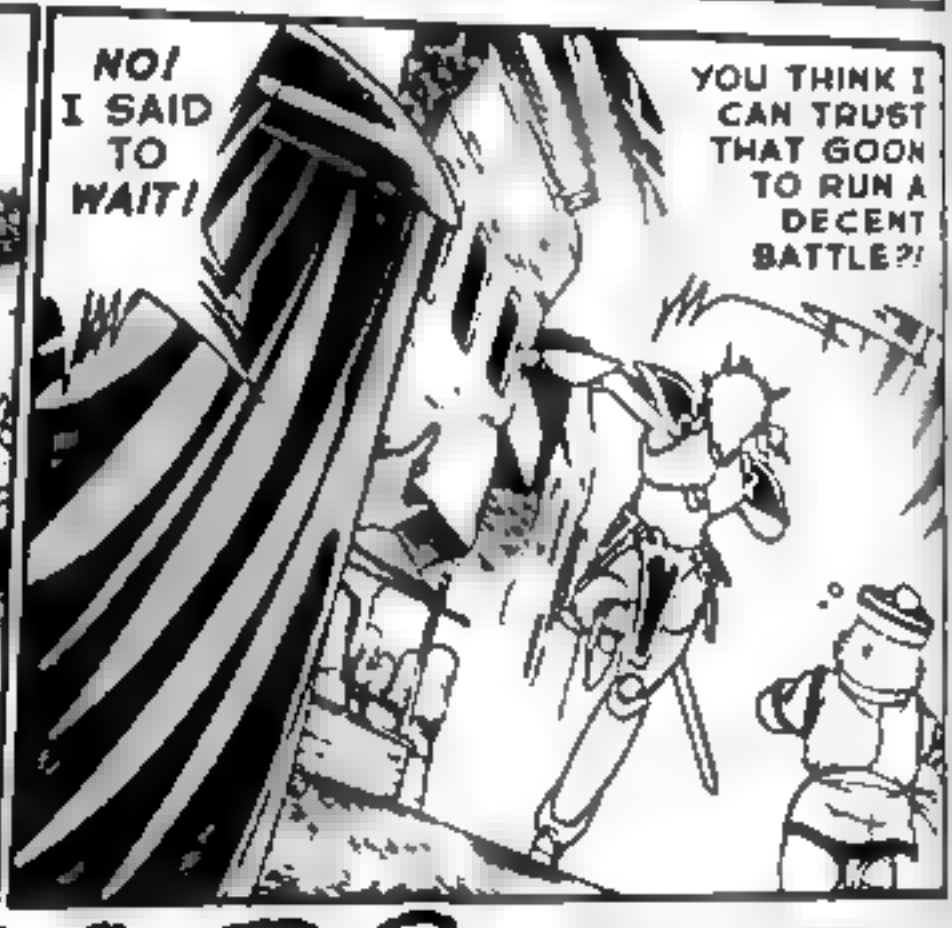
SO, YOU GUYS GET THE PICTURE?! IF YOU DON'T WANT US EATIN' SUSHI FOR DINNER, GET YER SCALY BUTTS THE HELL OUTTA HERE!
PROVINCIAL SCUM! RESIST US, AND YOU TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST THE ROMUNILIAN EMPIRE ITSELF!
SHUDDUP, YOU IMPERIAL BUTT-KISSERS!
HOLD YOUR TONGUE, GUTTER TRASH!

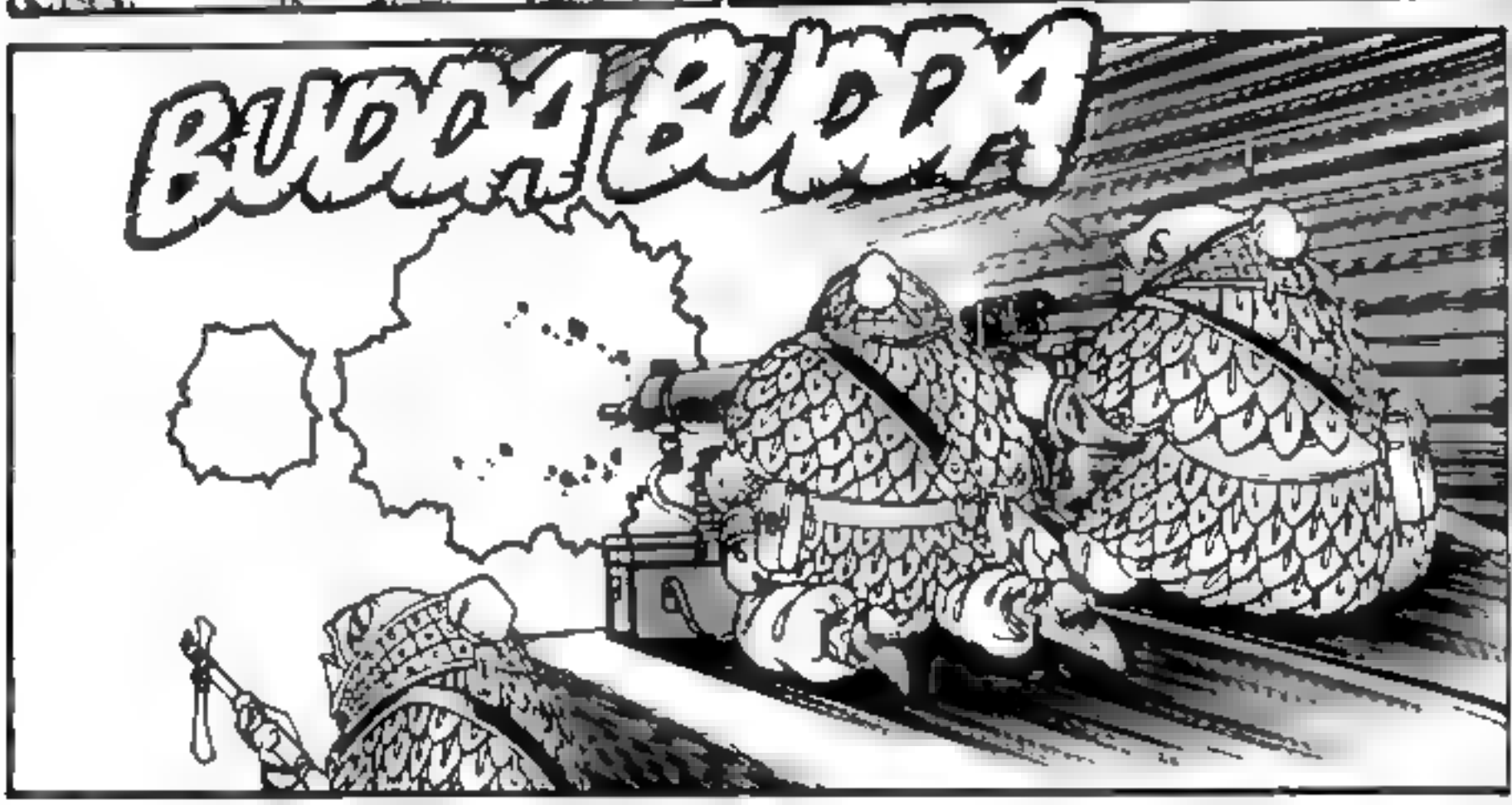
TAKE 'EM, BOYS!
SHRANGG

GRNN
RNN
BROOM
RAM
BOOM

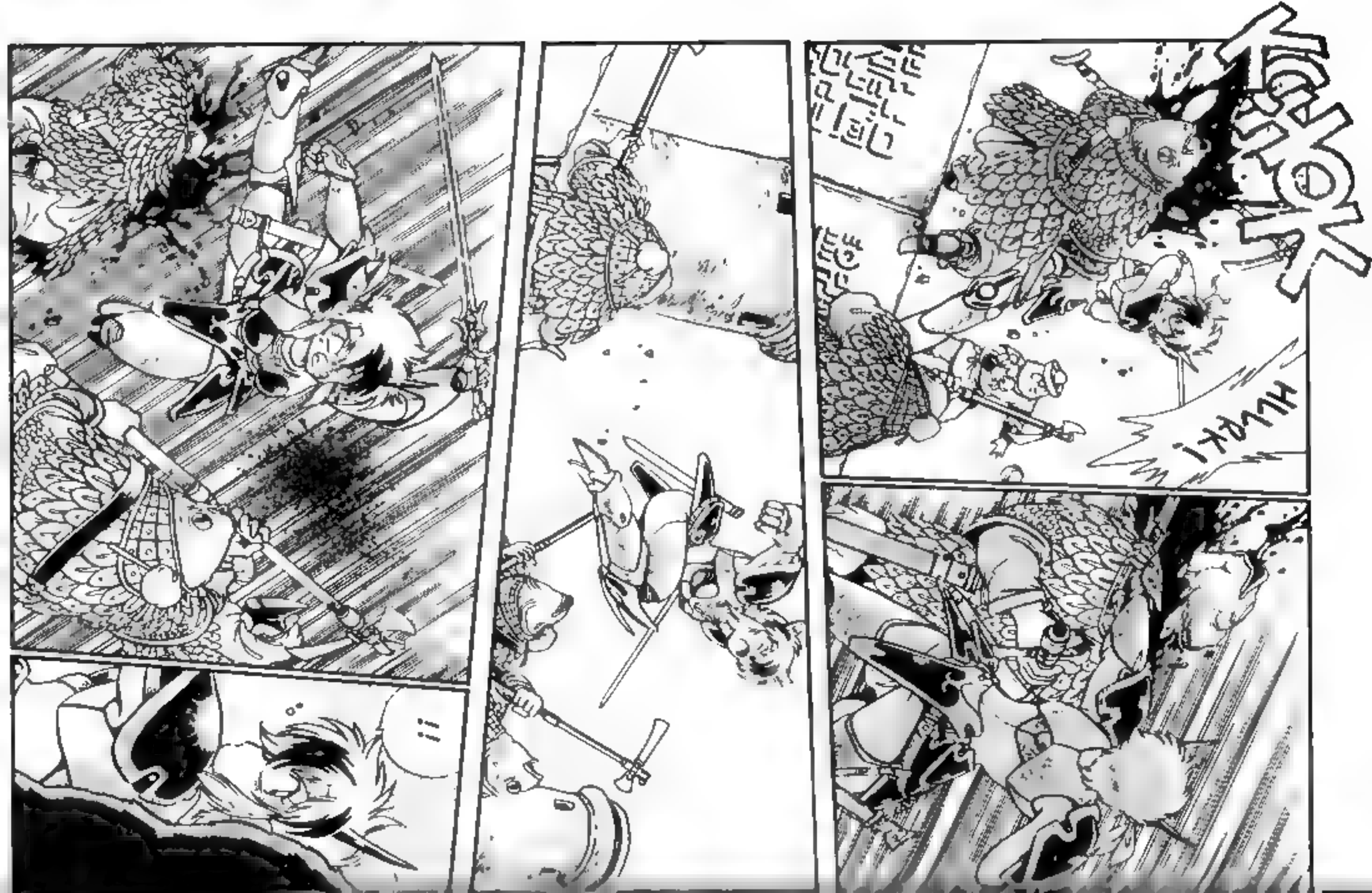
BADDA BADDA WHAM


THAT *IDIOT!* HE STARTED A WAR RIGHT IN THE *MIDDLE OF TOWN!*


NO! I SAID TO *WAIT!*
YOU THINK I CAN TRUST THAT GOON TO RUN A DECENT BATTLE?!


BUDDA BUDDA

ON THE RIGHT! BEHIND THE SALOON!
WH-
WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU?!
YOU KNOW THE WOMAN YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR...? YOU FOUND HER!


HUWAKI!
!!

URK!
YO!
SO YOU WERE PRINCESS KARULA!
YOU KNEW...?!
HELL, I SORTA FIGURED.
BKOOM!
SPRAKK
YOU BIG LUNK! GET OFF ME!
SHUT UP AND STAY LOW!

HEY! SOMEONE CIRCLE AROUND BEHIND THAT FRIGGIN' TANK!

BLOW THE TREADS!

GOTCHA, BOSS!

WHOA! HEY! COME BACK!

SHUT UP!

WHAM

YEEK!

FLUNGH

SEE WHAT I MEAN, YOU DUMBSHIT?!

DAMN... ARE ALL PRINCESSES THIS MUCH TROUBLE?!

BUDDA

....
JHNN ?
IT'S ABOUT GODDAMN TIME YOU LISTENED TO OTHER PEOPLE NOW AND THEN! YOU GET ME, LITTLE MISS PRINCESS?!
-EY! THAT BIG GUY'S JUST SOAKING UP OUR BULLETS!
THEN CRUSH HIM UNDER THE TREADS!
GRAN
GRAN
GRAN

MA'AM !
WHA
HYARGH!
GRAW
SKRAK

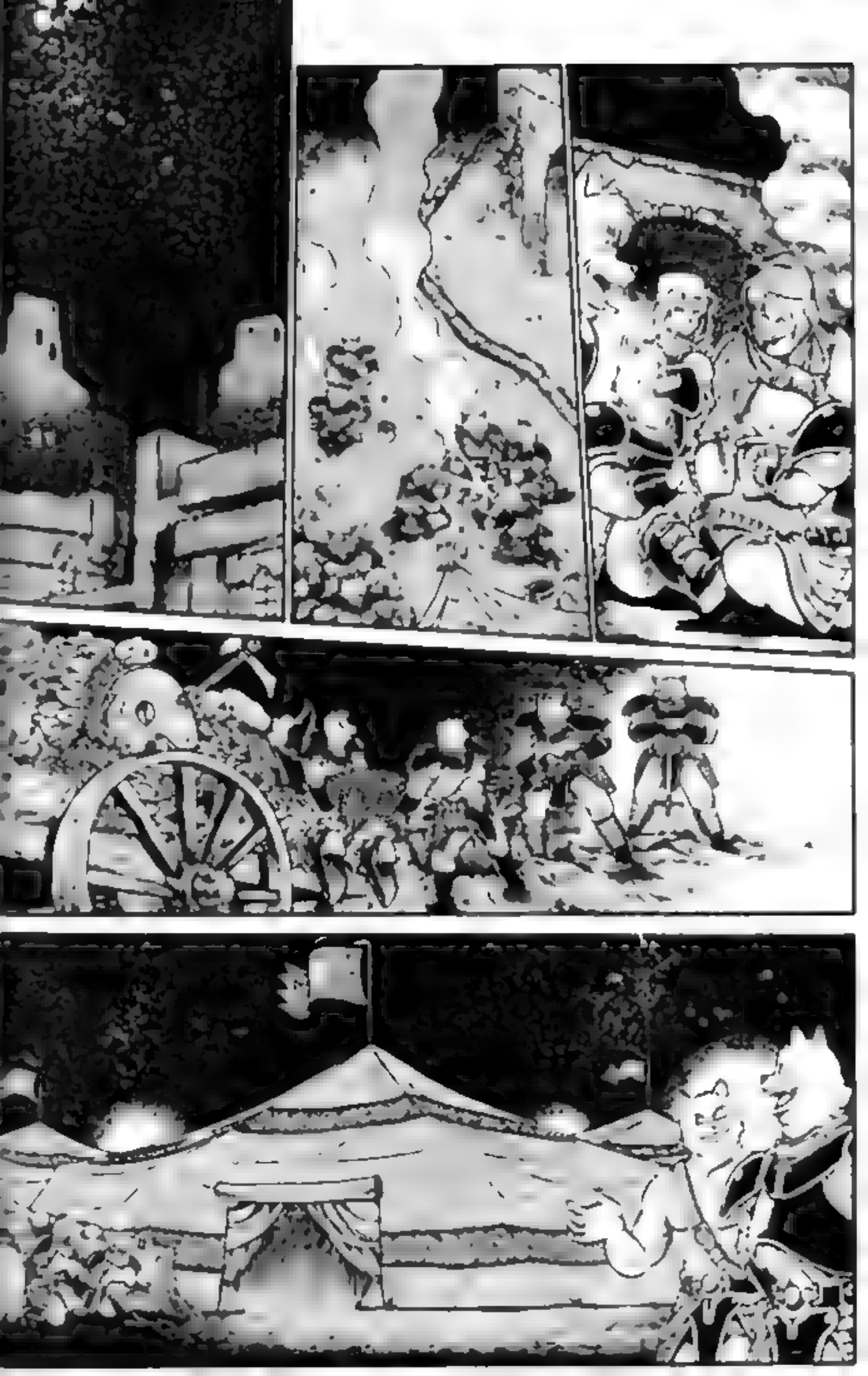
XSH
NRRGH!
AIEE!

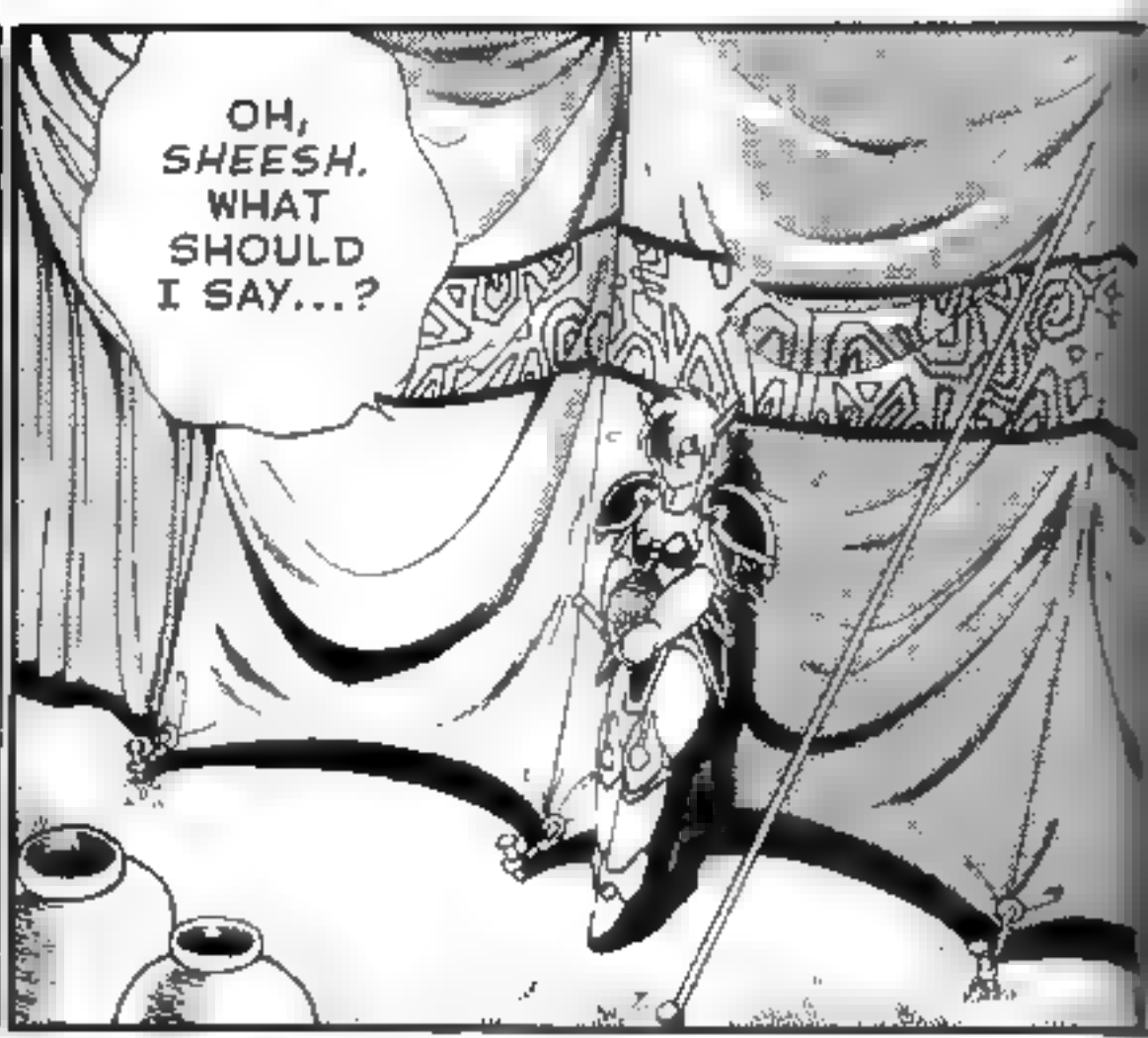
SHIT!

....
...!

YO! ANY SCRATCHES ?

UH...
N-NO...




OH, SHEESH. WHAT SHOULD I SAY...?

HE'S A BIG, DUMB, PUSHY, SEX-CRAZED JERK...
...BUT STILL, HE SAVED MY LIFE.
DAMN IT... I'M SO BAD AT THINGS LIKE THIS.

IF I COME OFF TOO GRATEFUL, HE'LL GET ALL PUFFED UP...
MAYBE JUST GO FOR IT, NO BULL-SHIT... HMM...

AW, TO HELL WITH IT!
WHD
WHD

HEY, FURBALL YOU CROAKED YET?!

BWA HA HA HA HA!

....

....!

YO! COULDN'T STAY AWAY, HUH?

COME JOIN THE FUN!

....

NOW THERE, DARLIN'S...

IT'S GETTIN' LATE. TIME FOR YOUR BEAUTY SLEEP.

AHHH

GIGGLE

Bye-Bye!

SEE YA LATER, SIR!

WHOA!
SWAP
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS SHIT?! I GET ALL WORRIED AND FIGURE I BETTER FIND OUT IF YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, AND WHAT DO I SEE? YOUR HAIRY ASS IN BED WITH A *HAREM!*
HEY, CHILL, GIRL! I'M THE HERO WHAT SAVED THEIR TOWN, REMEMBER?
OR MAYBE YOU'RE GETTIN' JEALOUS...?
POP
J-JEALOUS?!
ME?!
JUST SOAKED UP A FEW SLUGS IN THE BACK... GODDAMN DOCTORS PAWIN' AWAY AT ME FOR NOTHING.
LOOK--I ONLY CAME HERE TO THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID.
I'M SPLITTING THIS BURG TOMORROW, OKAY?
I DON'T NEED NO THANKS, GIRL...
...JUST NEED ME A DRINKING PARTNER.
HUH?!
W-WAIT! YOU EXPECT ME TO *DRINK* THIS STUFF?!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, YA DUMB BROAD?! THAT'S WHAT "DRINKING PARTNER" MEANS!
DUMBASS... YOU FILLED IT TO THE BRIM!
DAMN...I'VE BEEN OFF THE BOOZE SINCE I'VE BEEN ON THE RUN.
STILL, GOTTA LOVE THAT SMELL...
CHUG CHUG CHUG
AAAAAAAAAAAH!
HAH! GLAD I GOT YA THE GOOD STUFF!
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND POURIN' ME ANOTHER...?
WHOA... THE BABE KNOWS HOW TO DRINK!
GUESS THE RUMORS WEREN'T ALL TRUE.
?? RUMORS... ?
YEAH...THEY SAY PRINCESS KARULA OF LEDOMIAM DON'T GO FOR WINE OR MEN...BUT BLOOD-- NOW, BLOOD MAKES HER HOT.
SPICK

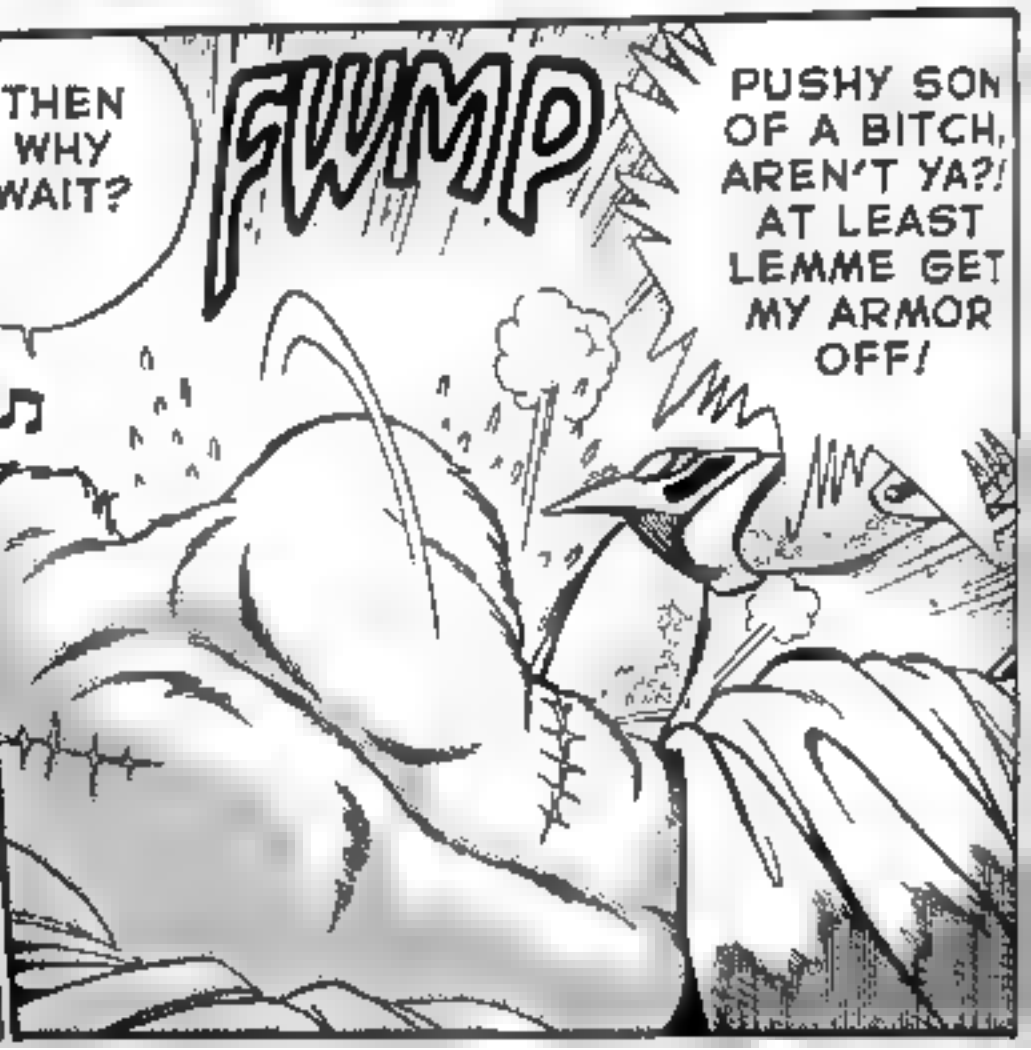
I... I NEVER KNEW...IS THAT REALLY WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT ME...?!
YEAH. AIN'T IT TRUE?

ACTUALLY... I SORTA LIKE WINE...

AND MEN...? HOW ABOUT MEN?!
EEP!

LEGGO OF ME, YOU SEX MANIAC!
I ASKED YOU A QUESTION, BABE!

YEAH, BUT--
!!!


THEN WHY WAIT?
FWMP
PUSHY SON OF A BITCH, AREN'T YA?! AT LEAST LEMME GET MY ARMOR OFF!

AAH...
MMM... OH, YES!
AH !!
ARL...
F-FORGIVE ME...
ARL? WHO'S THIS ARL GUY?

A MAN...

A MAN WHO LOVED ME...

...WHO ALWAYS FOUGHT BY MY SIDE...

...WHO DIED PROTECTING ME.

BUT NOW... THEY'RE ALL DEAD...ALL OF THEM.

EVEN MY FATHER, MY SISTER... I KNOW IT.

....

....

FORGET THE PAIN... FOR NOW...

AAAH..

MAN, THAT'S SOME STORY, GIRL. YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH HELL.
I DON'T NEED YOUR PITY, DARD.

SHIT, THAT AIN'T NO WAY TO TALK. WE'VE SPENT A NIGHT TOGETHER, BABE.
HEY!
AND IT WAS PROBABLY A BIG MISTAKE!
A MISTAKE, HUH.
SO, ANYWAY... WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO NEXT?
JUST WHAT I TOLD YOU.
I'M GOING TO KILL EMPEROR GUSTAV, WHATEVER IT TAKES! I'M BRINGING PEACE AND FREEDOM BACK TO THIS CONTINENT!
EMPEROR GUSTAV...
HRM.
NO WAY, KIDDO. HE'S NOT THE KIND OF GUY EVEN A WOMAN LIKE YOU CAN TAKE OUT BY YOURSELF.
I KNOW THAT! I'M NOT COMPLETELY STUPID!

BUT CAN'T YOU SEE I'VE *GOT* TO DO IT?!

NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES!

I'LL EVEN GIVE MY LIFE FOR IT!

I GAVE THEM MY PROMISE! I PROMISED ARL... ALL MY SOLDIERS..

ALL MY PEOPLE! THINKING ABOUT THEM UNDER GUSTAV'S JACKBOOT... DAMN IT!

DON'T TELL ME I CAN'T DO IT!

YEAH... SORRY ABOUT THAT.

I NEVER SHOULDA SAID IT, BABE. SORRY.

SNIFF

WHD

ALL RIGHT! I'LL HELP YA OUT! HOWZAT?!

HUH ?!

YOU... YOU'LL HELP ME?

SURE! AIN'T IT NATURAL TO HELP THE WOMAN YA LOVE?!

WAIT A SEC! YOU'VE GOT RESPON-SIBILITIES!

YOU'RE THE COMMANDER OF THIS COUNTRY'S BORDER PATROL!

SO I QUIT.

BORING SHIT, ANYWAY.

ARE YOU FOR *REAL* ?

MA'AM!! WHERE DID YOU GET TO?

I'VE BEEN WORRIED TO DEATH!

JUST...UH... JUST GRABBING SOME SLEEP, OKAY?

WHERE?! THE MAYOR WENT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO GET US A NICE PLACE TO STAY, YOU KNOW!

COULDN'T YOU EVEN

I SEARCHED ALL OVER TOWN FOR YOU!

HEY...!

WAIT... LET ME GUESS...

OH, HO!

WH-WHAT...?

I BET YOU... Y'KNOW... WITH...

HEY! YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO EVEN *THINK* OF THAT!

AND BESIDES, I DENY IT!

YO! READY TO ROLL, SWEET CHUNKS?

FWAP

YOU HORNY GOOF! WATCH THE HANDS!

BWA HA HA HA HA HA!

HAH! I KNEW IT!

YOU DON'T KNOW NOTHIN'! NOTHING!

HEY, RAYM...!

GEE...I GUESS I MEAN *PRINCESS KARULA*, HUH?

SO, *UMM*... DO YOU *REALLY* HAFTA GO?

FORGET THE "PRINCESS" STUFF, OKAY?

ANYWAY, IT'S BAD NEWS HAVING ME AROUND, RIGHT?

NO IT'S NOT! WE EVEN CONVINCED THE RINGMASTER TO LET YOU STAY, SEE?

ZZZZZ!!!

DID NOT DID NOT *DID NOT!*

THINK ABOUT *ME* FOR A CHANGE, WHY DON'T YOU?!

BABON... THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF ME FOR SO LONG.

HUH...?

UH... ONSENSE! OOK...D- ON'T SMILE AT ME LIKE HAT...
YOU WERE A REAL SWEET-HEART!
HAA...? I...I WAS...?
OKAY, EVERYBODY! LET'S GIVE RAYM A SENDOFF SHE'LL NEVER FORGET!
EAH! HAT'S GHT! RAYM'S OT LOTS O DO!
VE IT OUR ALL, RAYM! WE'LL ALWAYS BE BEHIND YOU!
THANKS... THANK YOU, ALL OF YOU!
DON'T CATCH COLD! DON'T DRINK THE WATER! ALWAYS USE TRAVELER'S CHECKS!
HEY, PRINCESS ADY--WE'RE PULLING OUT!
DON'T YOU GUYS START IT, TOO! I'M NOT A PRINCESS ANYMORE, OKAY?!
THEN, HOW 'BOUT "THE BOSS'S DAME"... ?!
OR...HIS "PIECE OF ASS," MAYBE?!
...
DON'T YOU FRIGGIN' DARE!!

MAMA, WOOK! AIRP'ANES!

YOU FINK BIG BRUVVER'S ON ONE OF DEM?

MAYBE, DEAR...

MAYBE...

...BUT THOSE POOR BOYS WILL NEVER COME HOME AGAIN...
BOSVANIAN MAN-OF-WAR -- THE ZEIDRICH.
KRSSHH
KRSSHH

KRANGG

GUARDS-- LEAVE US ALONE.

"SLEEP WITH THE EMPIRE"...? MY, MY, MY...WE MERELY CHOSE *SURVIVAL,* MY LADY.

INDEED, WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON HAVING MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PEOPLE.

AT THE RATE THINGS WERE GOING, WE WOULD SURELY HAVE BEEN DRAGGED DOWN TO DEFEAT BY A WEAKLING ALLY.

BUT REST ASSURED, YOUR HIGHNESS...I CONSIDER YOU AN HONORED *GUEST* OF BOSVANIA--

SMAK

DON'T YOU *DARE* TOUCH ME AGAIN!

HMPH.

VERY WELL.

HOWEVER, THAT TROUBLE-SOME YOUNGER SISTER OF YOURS, KARULA, IS ANOTHER MATTER.

WHAT D-DID YOU SAY...?!

PRINCESS KARULA WILL BE TRIED BY THE EMPIRE AS THE WAR CRIMINAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CAUSING THIS CONFLICT.

THERE IS NOTHING EVEN I CAN DO, YOUR HIGHNESS

THEN...

THEY HAVEN'T...?!

HRN HRN HRN...

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW!

HOW IT MUST TROUBLE YOU... YOUR ONLY SISTER, AFTER ALL. VERY WELL, I SHALL TELL YOU.

BUT BEFORE THAT, WON'T YOU SHARE A GLASS WITH ME, YOUR HIGHNESS?

A TOAST! TO YOUR HEALTH... AND THEN I SHALL TELL ALL...

BUT... BUT I--

IT IS BOSVANIAN TRADITION THAT THE GUEST DRINKS FIRST, MY LADY.

AH, WELL DONE, PRINCESS!

THERE! NOW, YOU PROMISED! TELL ME ABOUT KARULA!

WE ARE EXPECTING YOUR EXALTED SISTER VERY SOON, YOUR HIGHNESS.

WE HAVE SPREAD THE WORD FAR AND WIDE. AND NOTE THAT WE HAVE SUCH *DELECTABLE* BAIT...

UHH...
?

THE WINE...
!

YOU...YOU TREACHEROUS .

hahh

hahh

GOOD HEAVENS... SHALL I HELP YOU UP?

D-DON'T TOUCH ME! YOU DISGUSTING OFFAL!

NO !!

UNHAND ME!!

HRN HRN HRN...
NOW, MY DEAR...LET US SHARE A NIGHT OF DREAMS TOGETHER.
SUCH VERY PLEASANT DREAMS...

WHAT?!

MY SISTER ?!

ARE YOU SURE ?!

IS SHE ALL RIGHT?! HOW DID THE BOSVANIANS-- DAMMIT, *TELL ME!!*

"SISTER"...? I...I DIDN'T KNOW, MY LADY...I APOLOGIZE--

NA AW CALM DOWN

TO HELL WITH THAT CRAP! TELL ME ABOUT MY SISTER!!

I-I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS...

I JUST HEARD SHE'S A PRISONER... BEING SENT TO THE EMPIRE...

TO THE *EMPIRE?! WHEN?! HOW?!*

I-I'M SORRY, MY LADY.. I J-JUST HEARD SHE'S ALREADY *EN ROUTE.*

HEY, KARULA! WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU GOING?

WHERE DO YOU THINK, DARD?! YOU EXPECT ME TO JUST SIT ON MY ASS WHILE THEY HAND HER OVER TO GUSTAV?!

HOLD YOUR HORSES, GIRL. SO FAR, IT'S JUST A RUMOR.

BUT... BUT...

YO, SNOUT BOY. WHERE'D YOU HEAR THIS BUNCH'A BULL?!

HRK!

ONE... ONE JUST *HEARS* THINGS, GOOD SIR... YOU KNOW...?

BUT...TH-THIS MUCH IS TRUE, I TELL YOU--A ROYAL LEDOMIAM PRISONER IS BEING TAKEN TO BOSVANIA.

THEY'RE FISHIN' FOR YOU, GIRL. AND YOUR SISTER'S THE BAIT.

I'M GOING. PERIOD.

TRAP OR NOT, I CAN'T LET THEM TAKE ROSALIA LIKE THIS.

WAIT, DAMN IT! THIS STINKS OF A SETUP, KARULA!

SHUT YOUR YAP, DARD!

NOW WHAT?! IT'S KINDA EMBARRASSING TO HAVE YOU BIG LUGS MOOCHING ALONG AFTER ME!

HEY, WE'RE GONNA HELP OUT, PRINCESS.

ARE YOU CRAZY? YOU COULD ALL GET KILLED!

I'M IN LOVE. THEM'S THE BREAKS.

WHA-?! YOU... YOU IDIOT!

I DUNNO, MA'AM...I'D FEEL A LITTLE BETTER WITH THEM ALONG.

YEAH, WELL... GUESS I WOULD, TOO.

BY THE WAY, WHAT KIND OF WOMAN S THIS ROSALIA? SHE A BABE?
HEY, WE'RE SISTERS, RIGHT?
FUNNY THING IS, WE'VE GOT TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES. I MEAN, WE LOOK THE SAME, BUT--
N OTHER WORDS, GENTLEMEN, THE CROWN PRINCESS ROSALIA IS ELEGANT AND GRACIOUS...
GENTLE, WISE...SHALL WE SAY, "A PERFECT LADY"? A PRECIOUS GEM? THE WOMAN OF EVERY MAN'S DREAMS?
THE ANNOYING THING IS... HE'S RIGHT.
YO, KARULA... YOU LOOK A LITTLE PISSED--
SWA HA HA
SHUT UP! SHUT UP SHUT UP!!
ROSALIA... I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T SUFFERED TOO MUCH BECAUSE OF ME...
WAMMM

VRMM

MMM

VALOROUS EAGLES OF THE GLORIOUS YOUTH SPECIAL ATTACK SQUADRON!

THE MOMENT TO STRIKE DRAWS NIGH!

YOU GO NOW TO EXACT *DIVINE VENGEANCE* UPON THE IMPERIAL RUNNING DOGS OF *BOSVANIA!*

STALWART WARRIORS! THE WAR HAS DEVELOPED NOT NECESSARILY IN OUR FAVOR! DESPITE THE CRUSHING COUNTERATTACKS OF THE INVINCIBLE ARMIES OF OUR BELOVED *NOSJIR*, THE IMPERIAL PUPPET FORCES CONTINUE THEIR COWARDLY AGGRESSION AGAINST OUR PEACE-LOVING HOMELAND!

YOUR MOTHERLAND CALLS OUT FOR THE *UNQUENCHABLE LIFE FORCE* OF TS RESOLUTE YOUTH!

ONE HIT, ONE VICTORY! THE SEARING PURITY OF YOUR SPIRIT SHALL ***PULVERIZE*** EACH ENEMY DREADNOUGHT WITH A ***SINGLE BLOW!***

MASAHIKO! YOU MISERABLE CUR!

S-SIR!

WHAT ARE YOU SWEATING FOR ?!

SIR! I BURN WITH A WARRIOR'S FIRE, SIR!

I-I DO NOT FEAR TO GIVE MY L-LIFE TO CRUSH THE ENEMY!

WELL SAID, HERO OF NOSJIR! YOU MUST NOT FEAR DEATH!

SEE BEYOND THIS LIFE TO A NOBLER TRUTH!

S-SO THAT'S IT... WE'RE GONNA DIE. ALL OF US ARE GONNA DIE...

FREEDOM IN DEATH! GIVE YOUR LIFE FOR YOUR MOTHER-LAND!

FOR YOUR BRAVE WARRIOR BROTHERS GONE ON BEFORE!

SIIII

....
....

MOM...DAD... MY SWEET LITTLE SISTER MAMI...

I...I'M LEAVING YOU F-FOREVER!

EVERY-ONE JUST LIKE ME...

BUT THIS IS WAR, RIGHT? I GUESS IT'S THE WAY IT'S GOTTA BE...

VROOSHH
HEY!! I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU KNEW HOW TO FLY ONE OF THESE THINGS!
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR GETTING ME THIS JUNKER! I'M USED TO FLYING *QUALITY* AIRCRAFT, Y'KNOW!
SHEESH... AND AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE WE HAD "REQUISITIONING" IT...

VRNNMMM

OVER THERE! CAN YOU SEE IT?!

ISN'T THAT A BOSVANIAN SHIP?

THE DAME'S RIGHT, BOSS! IT'S A BOSVANIAN SHIP OF THE LINE, AND SHE'S MAKING FOR IMPERIAL TERRITORY!

THEN MY SISTER MUST BE INSIDE!

GOOD THING WE STAKED OUT THE SHIPPING LANES TO THE EMPIRE EH, GIRL?

ALL RIGHT-- CLOSE ON HER FROM BEHIND! USE THE SAND WAKE AS A SCREEN!!

VRNMM

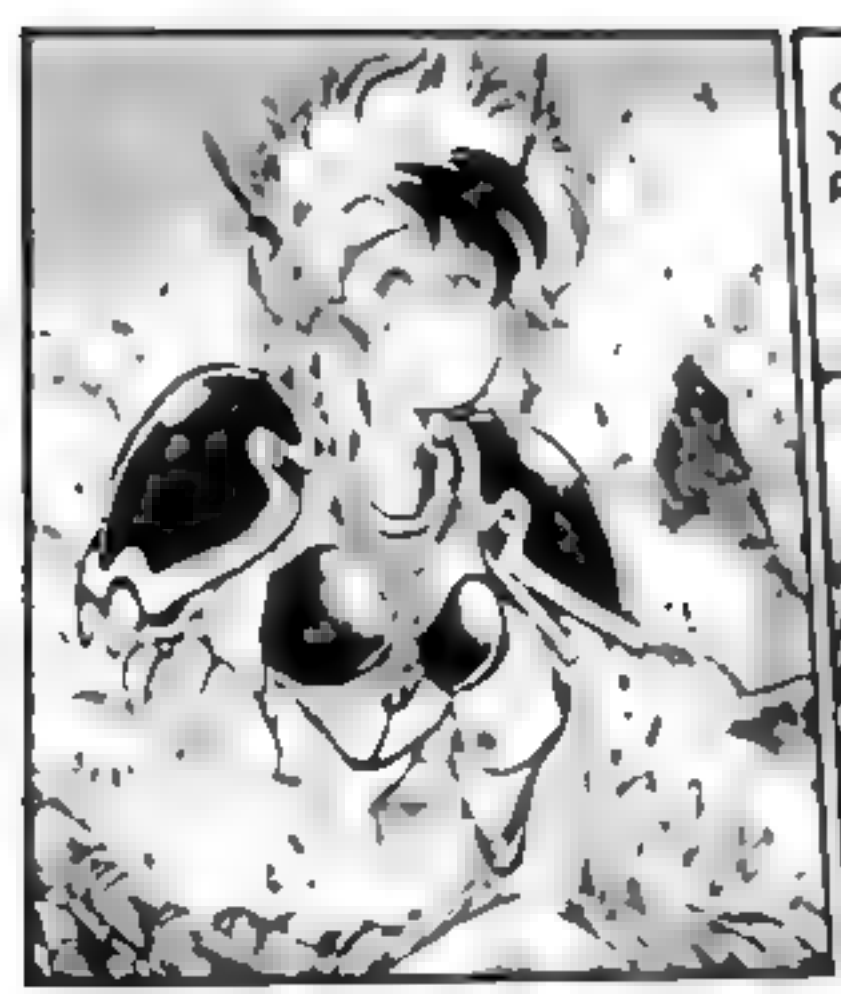
WHAT ABOUT THEIR REAR GUNNERS ?!

NO SWEAT, BABE-- BOSVANIAN RADARS ARE PRIMITIVE JUNK. THEY'LL NEVER KNOW WE'RE HERE!

WA-HOO! IT'S A FRIGGIN' SAND-STORM!
KARULA! GET US THROUGH BEFORE THE SAND KILLS THE ENGINE!
SHUT YOUR YAP! YOU WANT TO CHOKE TO DEATH ON SAND?
WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M DOING, KNOT-HEAD?!
IS THERE ANY WAY IN? A HATCH OR SOMETHING ?!
HEY, DID I SAY IT'D BE EASY?!
RNNM

THE VENTING DUCT! WE CAN GO THROUGH THERE!
HANG ON, EVERY-ONE!
WHA-?! B-BUT MA'AM-- THAT'S CRAZY!
HEY, I LIKE "CRAZY"...!
BRACE YOUR-SELVES!
AIEEAAGH!

KRASHOOM
YA HA HA!
IT WORKED!
SPRAK



CHEN! YOU ALL RIGHT?!
YO, BOYS YOU GUYS DEAD YET?!

EXCUSE ME, MA'AM...BUT WASN'T THAT A BIT RECKLESS?
ANYONE BUT US WOULD'VE CROAKED!
YEAH, WELL WE GOT INSIDE, DIDN'T WE? HEH, HEH

SO... YOU READY?
YOU BET, DADD!

ROSALIA, WAIT FOR ME! I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE, I PROMISE...!

VMMMM
INTEL FROM THE RECON FLIGHT, SIR!
BOSVANIAN WARSHIP SIGHTED!
S NGLE LARGE NEAR-SURFACE SHIP OF THE LINE, BEAR.NG NORTH AT HIGH SPEED.
RANGE TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, BEARING ZERO-THREE TO ZERO-SEVEN, SPEED FORTY-ONE KNOTS!
GOOD, GOOD! WE HAVE OUR PIGEON-- PREPARE TO LAUNCH!
SPECIAL ATTACK PILOTS, BOARD YOUR MISSILES!
REPEAT, BOARD YOUR MISSILES!

NO...!
NO, NO, NO!! I DON'T WANNA! I DON'T WANNA GO!
YOU MISERABLE COWARD!
I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE!
IT'S FOR NOSJIR!
OOMPH!
WHAMP
KCHAK
WE PRAY FOR YOUR GLORY IN BATTLE! DO NOT FAIL THE MOTHERLAND!
snif
sob
FIRE!!
KACHANK

GCHUNK
FWHOOSH
HAIEE!!
HYEEEK!!
FORGIVE ME, MEN! I SWEAR YOU WON'T DIE IN VAIN!
FWHSSH

WARNING

ROSALIA

!!

I IMAGINE YOU UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT THIS MEANS PRINCESS KARULA

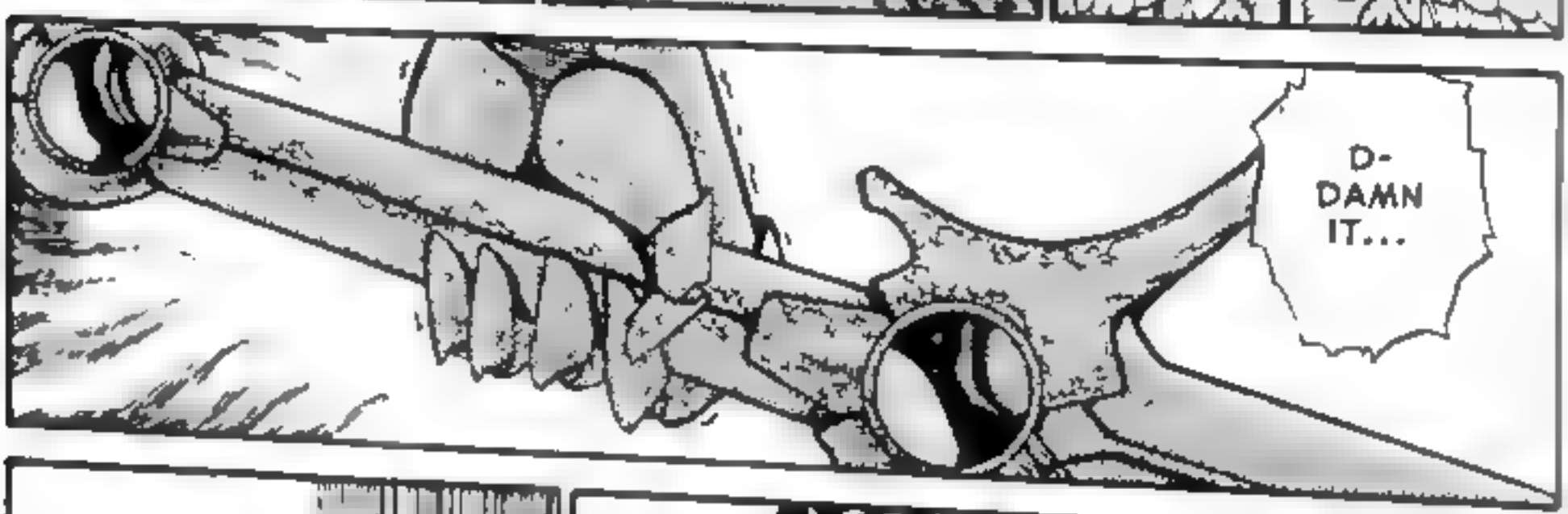
NOW YOU FISH HEADS PLAY AS DIRTY AS EVER

BOMTON, YOU MONSTER! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HER?

HOW DIFFERENT SHE IS FROM HER WILD AND LASCIVIOUS YOUNGER SISTER...TRULY A QUEEN OF HER COUNTRY!
AH, YES...THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE TASTE OF AN UNSPOILED VIRGIN...

Y-YOU! HOW... HOW COULD YOU--

THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPONS!
OR DO YOU WANT HER TO LOSE HER LIFE AS WELL...?!


D-DAMN IT...

DAMN IT ALL!
THOK

YOU, TOO, YOU MANGY PACK OF BRIGANDS!
YOU LITTLE--! I OUGHTTA--
DARD, PLEASE.

FOR ME...?

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, GIRL. I UNDERSTAND.

WHUD

I'M SORRY...

WELL, SHIT.

KANG SHANG

THERE YA GO. DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH US!

HO HO HO... MY BUSINESS IS WITH PRINCESS KARULA.

....

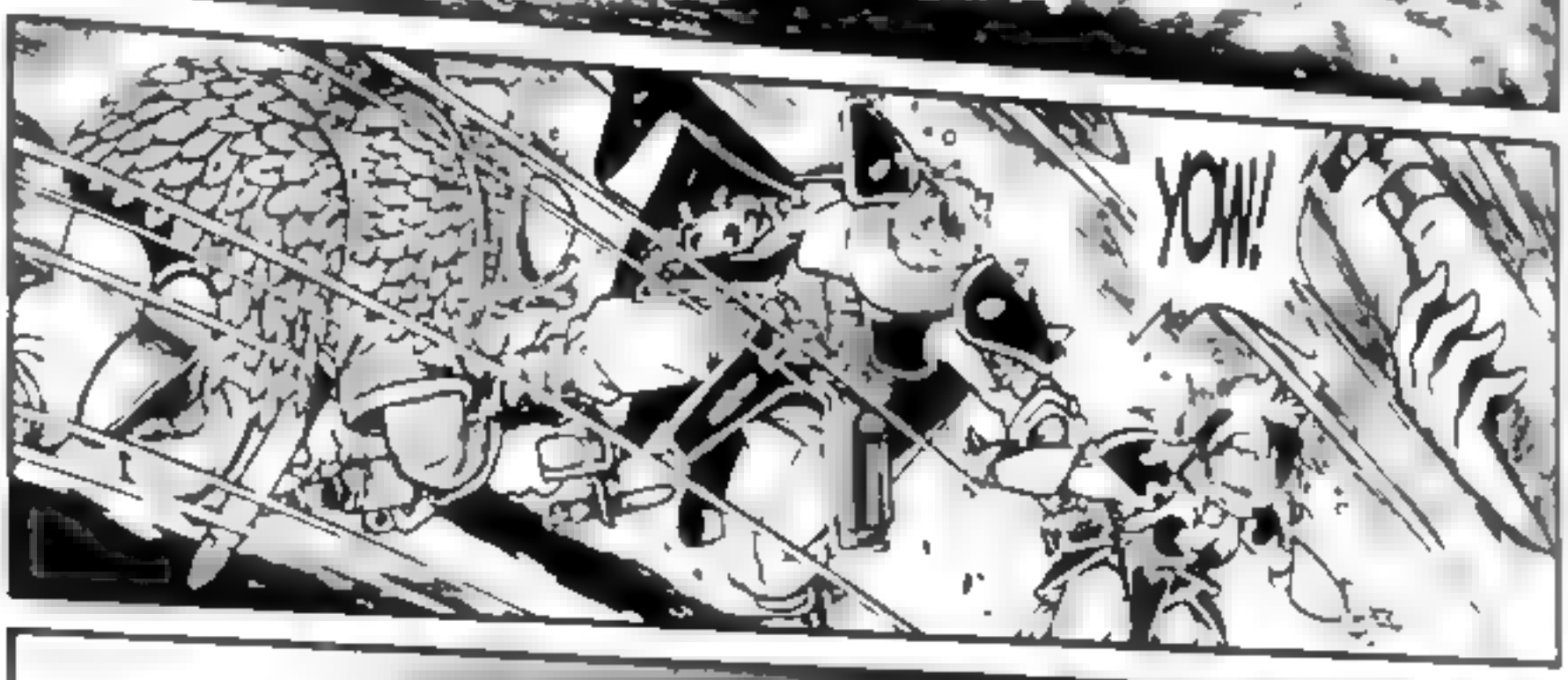
PRINCESS!

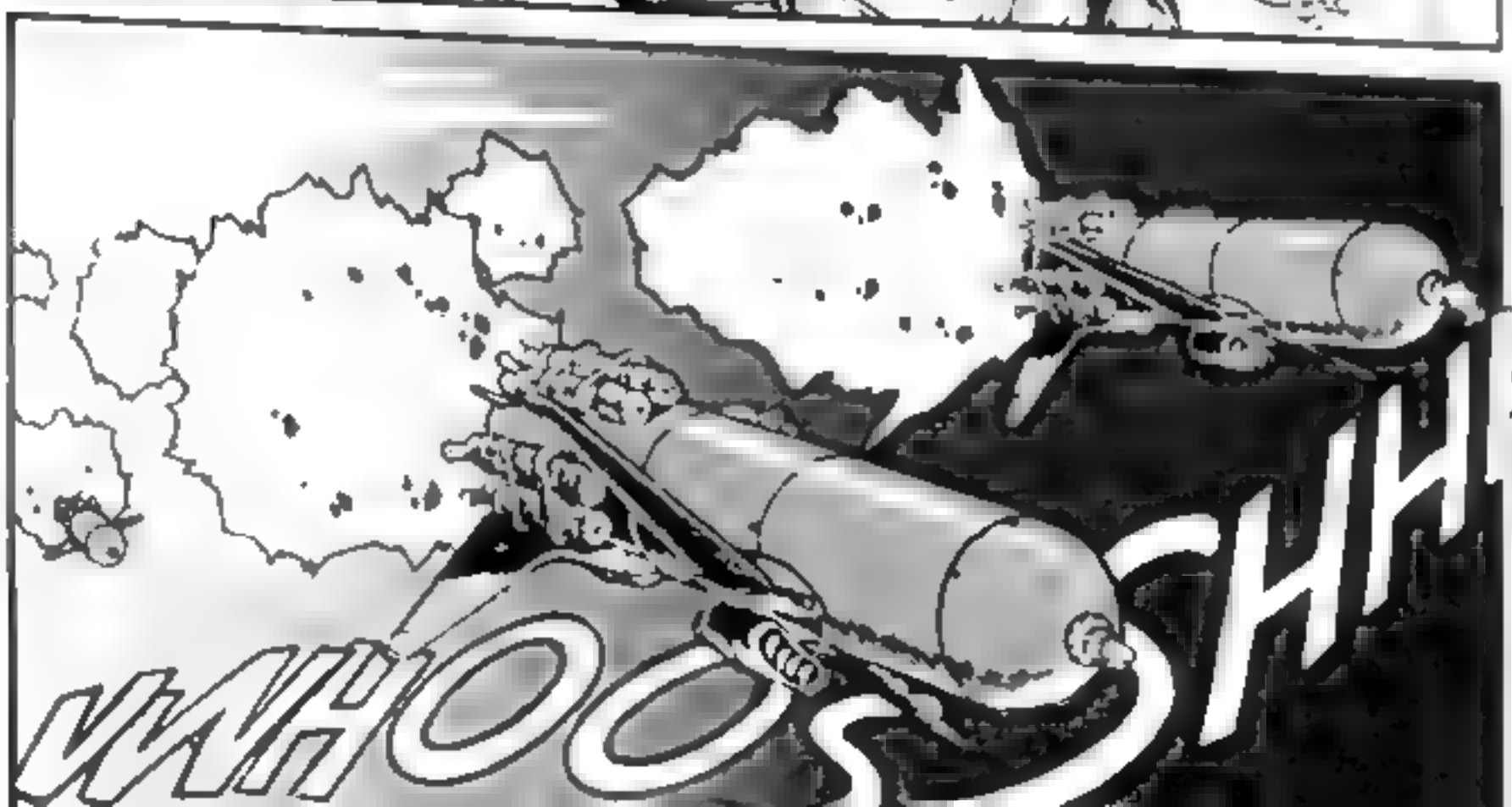
EMPEROR GUSTAV IS DYING TO SEE YOU.

GUARDS! I HAVE NO NEED OF THIS TRASH-- DISPOSE OF THEM!

HEY, HEY! THAT'S NOT THE DEAL!

BKROOM


YOW!


WAHOO
SHH

BKAM
BKAM
BKAM
WHSSHH
DIE, DAMN YOU! DIE, DIE, DIE!!

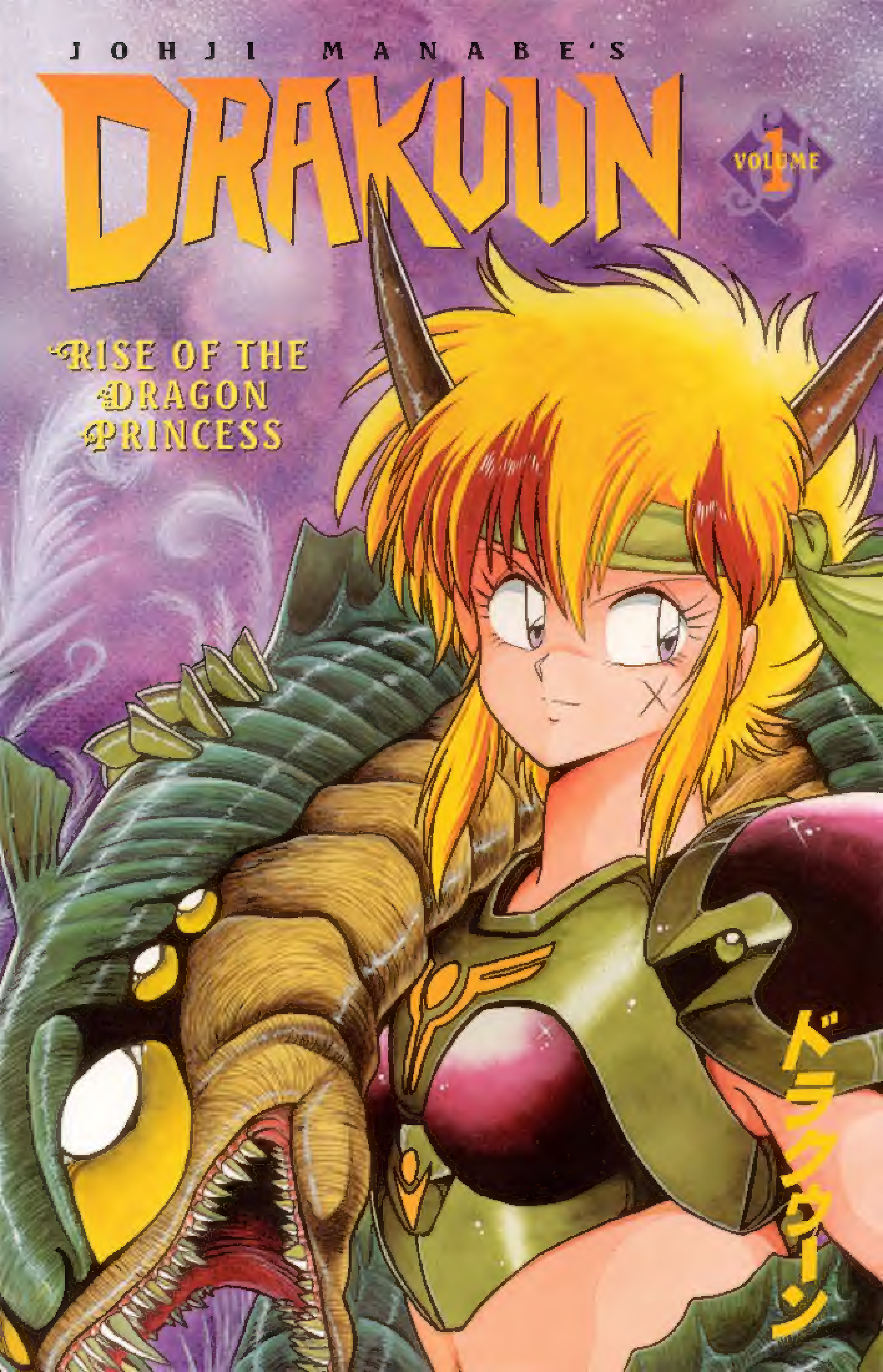
BKABOOM
BKAM
BKAM
MOMMY! I DON'T WANNA DIE!

WHKOW
ACK!
NOW !!
SHKK
HRRGG!
NGAAH!

FWMP
KARULA!
THANKS, DARD !!
WHDD
AAH! N- NO!
OKAY, BOHTON-- IT'S SUSHI TIME!!
TO BE CONTINUED IN DRAKUUN PART TWO: THE REVENGE OF GUSTAV!

JOHJI MANABE'S

DRAKUUN

VOLUME 1

RISE OF THE DRAGON PRINCESS